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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

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27 Husker Coaching Debuts

BO PELINI BRINGS
HIGH HOPES AND
NEW DEFENSE TO 2008

PLUS

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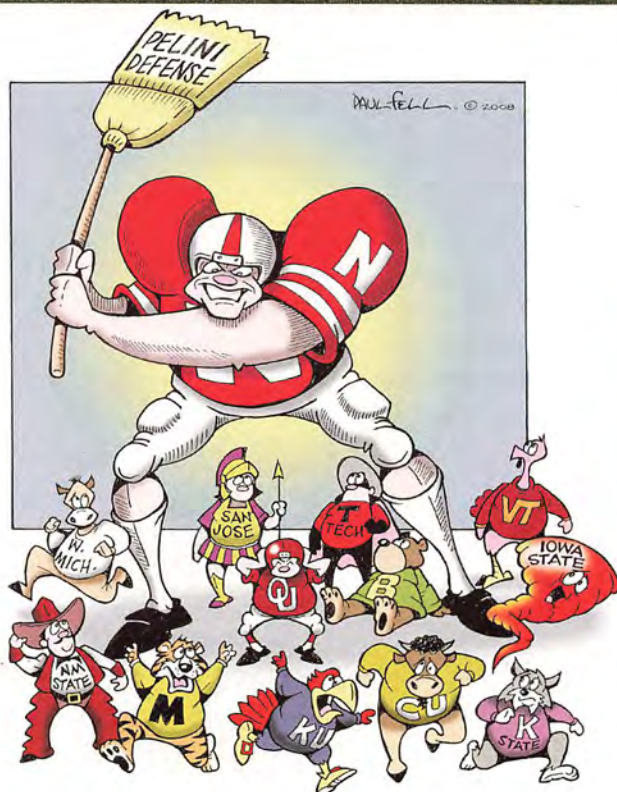
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HUSKERS

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AUGUST 25, 2008 • VOLUME 28 • NO. 7

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Kansas is learning it may be as tough to stay at the top of the Big 12 as it was to reach the top.

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Running back Marlon Lucky and Linebacker Cody Glenn are posed for big seasons in 2008. They head into the season representing the past and present of Husker football.

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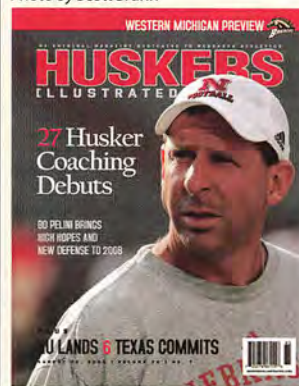
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NEXT ISSUE The Western Michigan Review/San Jose State Preview will be mailed on Tuesday, Sept. 2 because of Labor Day. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

Head Coach Bo Pelini has taken his team through spring practice and now fall camp. Is this enough time to turn around a defense that ranked among the worst in the country last year? Pelini and company think so. Pelini will make his debut as Nebraska head coach on Aug. 30 against Western Michigan. Photo by Scott Bruhn



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Husker fans are singing a different tune entering 2008



NEBRASKA FOOTBALL season is finally here, marking the end to one of the longest offseasons in Husker history – 282 days to be exact, nearly 7,000 hours – between the day Nebraska trudged off Folsom Field and the day Bo Pelini will run onto Tom Osborne Field to make his head coaching debut against Western Michigan.

A Husker fan suffers through withdrawal during any offseason, much less one like the past nine-plus months. The good news is that Husker fans will soon be consoled by the smell of charcoal tailgate grills, Runza's, hot dogs and their favorite pre-game meal.

If fans' expectations are met, their suffering will be eased with a restored defense and a return to a winning tradition.

Expectations have changed considerably for the Husker program in these past nine months. I've lost count how many times I've heard from fans that they just want to see players "compete."

It's a reasonable request after considering the results from 2007. I've heard a number of people say (including the phone repairman this morning) they just want to see Nebraska have a winning season.

But expectations are a funny thing. I'm curious, how quickly will they change? How many of those same people would really celebrate after a 7-6 season? My guess is not many of them.

How long does it take to raise expectations from a winning season to winning the Big 12 North? Does a 3-0 start against Western Michigan, San Jose State and New Mexico State create an expectation of winning the Big 12 North? A 5-0 start with a win over Missouri would have to get people talking about a Big 12

Championship, right?

Maybe these people will stay true to their expectations. I have a feeling there is one person who won't change his expectations.

After listening to Pelini and his players, I am positive Pelini would not be celebrating a 7-6 season.

There is nothing wrong with having high expectations. You can bet that is one of many reasons Pelini took this job.

It will definitely be interesting to watch expectations for the football program change not just in the coming weeks, but in the next few years.

Speaking of high expectations, we at *Huskers Illustrated* continue to strive to bring our loyal readers the best Husker publication possible.

As our new design evolves, we have reinstituted an old classic, the Big Red Mailbag, to publish your letters and e-mails. You will also notice that we are "Catching Up With" former Husker greats on page 29.

My favorite new addition to the magazine is "From the Archives" on page 34. We have unearthed hundreds of great photos and will share those with you each issue. Make sure you check out the football photo from 1904 and get your weekly history lesson.

We are also debuting "Hometown Heroes" (page 9). In each magazine we will feature the city or town of a current Husker and its link to Husker tradition, beginning with Imperial, Neb.

There have been a number of new features added to the magazine, each one with our readers in mind. I hope we've exceeded your expectations. **N**

Send us your comments or story ideas to huskersillustrated@gmail.com

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Big Red Mailbag

SEND US YOUR LETTERS!! Huskers Illustrated loves to hear from its readers. Have an opinion to share about a story in this issue? Send us a letter. Have an opinion about the Huskers? Drop us a line. Want to share a photo from your last Husker game? We'll take it. We'll showcase the best letters each issue on these pages. Send digital photos and letters to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and your regular snapshots and letters to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512.



CHEERING FROM AFAR

Just got the yearbook couple days ago here in Iraq. AWESOME!!! Love it Aaron, you did a great job. It was in pretty good shape too. I can't tell ya how much of a morale booster it was to get that out here. I look forward to getting more issues.

We appreciate your hard work you and the staff have done to put that together. Wish I could get to the games this season and root the Huskers on, but will have to wait till 2009 season. Thanks again Aaron. HUSKER POWER!! GO BIG RED!!

Specialist Zachary Meyer
HHC, 7th SWS BDE
COB Adder, Iraq

FAN PREDICTIONS

Just zipped through the 2008 yearbook issue. Great stuff, it really sets the mood for the fall season. What really stands out to me is how loaded the Big 12 looks this year. I pick OU to repeat as Big 12 champs over Missouri based on their line on both sides of the ball.

As hopeful as I am about this season with Bo at the helm, I see a rebuilding year, especially on defense. No BCS bowl yet. Ganz put up some big numbers last year, yet we went 1-2 with him, so I can't see a miracle turnaround. I see the Huskers at 9-4, competing with KU for No. 2 in the North, but more likely 5 losses than 3. Perhaps a stronger O-line with our deep running back corps may surprise me with

another win or two. I also see Bo putting his brand on the squad, which can only be good.

Nice lists of Top 5 at each position. I have only minor quibbles with it, like wondering why Terrell Farley or Carlos Polk aren't included. The Walk-On list was also fine, and a good reminder of our past, and hopefully our future.

Bob Clouston, UNL, 1984
Wintergreen, Va.

LONG-TIME READER

Just a note to let you know I have received Huskers Illustrated since it first came out. The first issues were just small flyers and I have every issue (I believe) to this day. The only thing that is a lot different is the price. But it is still a darn good magazine. Keep up the good work.

Mark Butt
Crete, Neb.

TOP 5 AT EACH POSITION

I enjoyed the article in the yearbook. The only changes would be these.

1. Jerry Tagge behind Tommie Frazier. He won two championships, A great, great leader. Gill never won one, and I don't think was as great a leader. Frost won one. Crouch won a Heisman. I go team before individual stats.

2. WR. I wouldn't have Terrence Nunn anywhere on the list. He lost a big Texas game for us. Plus I remember many drops. Just because he had many more balls thrown to him and had some stats, no thank-you.

3. Offensive Guard- Steinkuhler is No. 1. Then Shields and Brown.

4. OLB/Rush End- Willie Harper and Trev Alberts tied for second. Thomas didn't impress me much, except his mouth.

5. Cornerback - Barron Miles is tied with Butterfield for second. Miles was just a tenacious great cornerback. He was defending 6-3 and 6-4 receivers

his whole career and usually gave them a rough time. He was very physical.

6. I would have had Mike Minter higher. Bullocks had 10 interceptions, but Minter was a better tackler and all-around safety.

Thanks, for doing the Greats, it brought back a lot of memories.
Terry Darnall "Deserthusker"
Mesa, Ariz.

Cornhead Corner

definition: CORNHEAD, corn-head - noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.



Cornhusker fans who remember watching Johnny Rodgers can tell you how elusive he was, how he could leave would-be tacklers grasping at air. **PAUL "JAKE" JACOBSEN** can show you. And you can hear the cheers of the crowd, as well.

Jacobson has over 600 Nebraska football videos, including games and season highlights, as well as between 350 and 400 audio recordings. His collection began with a desire to see the 1971 "Game of the Century" after hearing a recording of Lyell Bremser's broadcast. It grew from there.

His favorite game? Easy, he says, Nebraska-Oklahoma, 1978.

His collection helps preserve Cornhusker football history, "where childhood heroes are always young and alive ... not just players, but the radio announcers."

ARE YOU A CORNHEAD? Send us your story along with a photo to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of Huskers Illustrated.



Maurice Purify was Nebraska's "go-to" receiver last season. Few would dispute that. He caught 57 passes for 814 yards and nine touchdowns. The yardage and touchdown catches were team highs.

I-back Marlon Lucky led the team in receptions, shattering the school record held by Johnny Rodgers. But the Cornhuskers looked to Purify when they needed a big play passing.

Purify is gone, to the Cincinnati Bengals as a free agent. So who's the "go-to" receiver now? "Whoever's open," quarterback Joe Ganz said during Nebraska's preseason news conference.

His statement elicited laughter. "No," he quickly added, "obviously, Nate (Swift) and Todd (Peterson) are going to be security blankets. Those are the guys I'm going to be leaning on because we have great chemistry together. We've grown up in this program

together, so we're on the same page.

"I know where they're going to be. They know... where the ball's going to be. So obviously, those two guys are going to be big. But we're still looking for those younger guys. Those younger guys are going to have to step up because Nate and Todd, they can't go every play."

Swift, who was third on the team in receptions last season, is in position to break Rodgers' school career record (143). Lucky is, too, although it's uncertain whether the offense will rely on him as much this season. No running back has ever been used as a receiver to that degree.

So Swift is probably the more likely candidate. Even so, he isn't thinking about the record. He never has, for that matter. "I don't know if anybody ever expects anything like that," he said.

"I just wanted to come in here and play, contribute as soon as I could."

This season he wants to be consistent, and "whatever happens, happens. If you have a ton of catches or a couple of catches here and there, as long as we're winning games, I don't really care."

What happens to him, as well as the other receivers, will depend on Ganz, of course. "He's going to have to pay me some money if he wants to break all those records," Ganz said.

ALL-TIME RECEIVING LEADERS

TOP FIVE IN RECEPTIONS

1. Johnny Rodgers (1970-72) 143
2. Terrence Nunn (2004-07) 136
3. **Marlon Lucky (2005-present) 109**
4. **Nate Swift (2005-present) 103**
5. Matt Davison (1997-00) 93

TOP FIVE IN RECEIVING YARDS

1. Johnny Rodgers (1970-72) 2,479
2. Terrence Nunn (2004-07) 1,762
3. **Nate Swift (2005-present) 1,535**
4. Matt Davison (1997-00) 1,456
5. Maurice Purify (2006-07) 1,444

2MinuteDrill

JOE GANZ



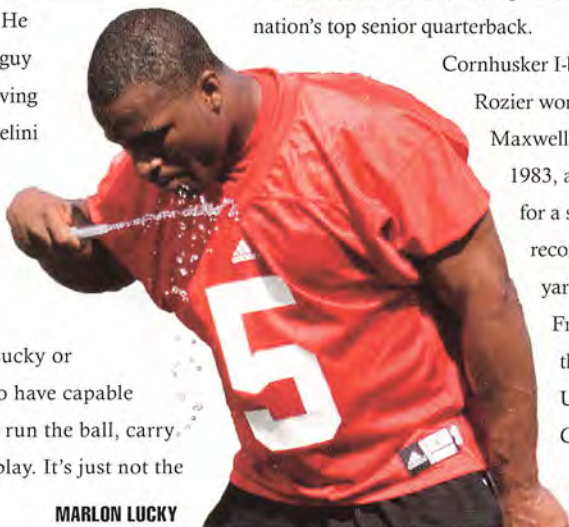
BURYING THE PAST: Even though the Cornhuskers have set aside the frustrations of last season's 5-7 record, "it's always lingering, kind of," senior quarterback Joe Ganz said prior to the start of preseason practice in early August. "So I think for this team to really get its confidence back, we really need to have a good fall camp and a good couple of games. If we can do that, I think we can kind of bury everything that's happened in the past and just completely forget about it. We have all the ability. "If we can regain that confidence we had, we can be a pretty darn good team."

WHO'S NO. 1?

Senior Marlon Lucky, Nebraska's only representative on the Big 12 coaches' preseason all-conference team, is the No. 1 I-back. Offensive coordinator Shawn Watson confirmed that during preseason practice. But sophomore Roy Helu, Jr. is pushing Lucky. Helu was listed as co-No. 1 on the preseason depth chart. He "showed us that he's a guy that's going to be deserving of carries," coach Bo Pelini said. "I don't get caught up in a depth chart, who's listed as No. 1 and No. 2."

"I know one thing, whether it's Marlon Lucky or anybody, you've got to have capable guys. Somebody can't run the ball, carry the ball, every single play. It's just not the right thing."

MARLON LUCKY



WATCH OUT

I-back Marlon Lucky and quarterback Joe Ganz have been named to watch lists for post-season awards. Lucky is included on the watch list for the Maxwell Award, presented annually to the nation's top collegiate player, while Ganz has been named to the watch list for the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, presented to the nation's top senior quarterback.

Cornhusker I-back Mike Rozier won the Maxwell Award in 1983, after rushing for a school-record 2,148 yards. Tommie Frazier won the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award in 1995.

SIDELINES



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

The Cornhuskers have eight home games, including the first five at Memorial Stadium. That's fine with coach Bo Pelini, no surprise there. "We like playing at home, not as much travel," he said. "I think it's a big advantage for us. I'd like to play 12 at home, but they won't let me."

Nebraska opened with five home games in 2006, winning the first four on the way to an 8-4 record. The last time the Cornhuskers had eight home games was in 2001. They won all eight.

Nebraska's record at Memorial Stadium over the past 20 seasons is 120-14. During the on-going NCAA record of 289 consecutive sellouts, the Cornhuskers' record is 252-37.



PAY PER VIEW

Nebraska's first three games weren't picked up for network telecasts, so they will be shown on pay-per-view television. Times for the first two games have been set. Kick-off for the opener against Western Michigan is set for 6 p.m. Kickoff for the second game against San Jose State will be 11:30 a.m.

2MinuteDrill



Offensive line goes lean

The offensive line will be lighter this season through the efforts of strength coach James Dobson. Matt Slauson is listed at 320. Keith Williams is listed at 305. And Jaivorio Burkes is listed at 325. All three are 20 to 30 pounds lighter than their heaviest weights. Junior center Jacob Hickman has been an exception. "When you start at 275 and they want you at 295, it's the easiest job there is to go up in weight," said Slauson. The 6-4 Hickman is listed at 290 pounds, probably generously so.

DIXON'S DISMISSAL

Kevin Dixon figured prominently in plans to regenerate Nebraska's defense. He was listed as the top back-up at both tackle positions after starting four times last season following his transfer from Garden City (Kan.) Community College. But the 6-3, 280-pound senior from Sebring, Fla., was dismissed prior to the start of preseason practice for an unspecified violation of team rules.

In addition to Dixon's dismissal, senior Ty Steinkuhler, a returning starter at tackle, was hampered by back problems during preseason practice, leaving Ndamukong Suh – who missed spring while recovering from

knee surgery – and Shukree Barfield as the only healthy and experienced interior linemen.

GO HARD OR GO HOME

Newcomer Ricky Henry, a transfer from North Dakota State College of Science, made an immediate impact during preseason practice, competing for playing time at offensive guard. "He doesn't know how to play slow. So he's not the favorite guy to go against if you draw him as your partner in a drill," offensive line coach Barney Cotton told the *Omaha World-Herald*.

The 6-4, 305-pound Henry signed a letter of intent with Nebraska following his senior year at Omaha Burke High School before playing two seasons in junior college.

FIRST LOOK, DEFENSE

Freshman Baker Steinkuhler is listed in the Husker media guide as an offensive lineman. But he is beginning his collegiate career in the defensive line, joining his

brother, senior Ty Steinkuhler. "As with all newcomers, the freshmen, that could change," coach Bo Pelini said. By all accounts, however, the younger Steinkuhler seemed to be adapting well to the defensive line.

"He doesn't know how to play slow. So he's not the favorite guy to go against if you draw him as your partner in a drill."

BARNEY COTTON TO THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD ON NEWCOMER RICKY HENRY.

SIDELINES



WALK-ON NEWCOMERS

Coach Bo Pelini didn't release the names of the players on the fall camp roster of 105. But at least four incoming freshman walk-ons were included: Justin Jackson from Roca, Neb., **MATT HOLT** (above) from Lee's Summit, Mo.; Jase Dean from Bridgeport, Neb.; and Brian Thorson from Omaha, Neb. In addition, senior walk-on offensive lineman Derek Meyer, a transfer from Kansas State, was on the 105.

NOT AMONG THE 105

Six members of coach Bo Pelini's first recruiting class weren't included on the roster of 105 for preseason practice. Micah Kreikemeier, a linebacker from West Point, Neb., suffered a knee injury during the summer and will redshirt this season. Junior college transfer and early enrollee Tyson Hetzer, a tight end, continued to recover from a knee injury that sidelined him for much of spring practice as well.

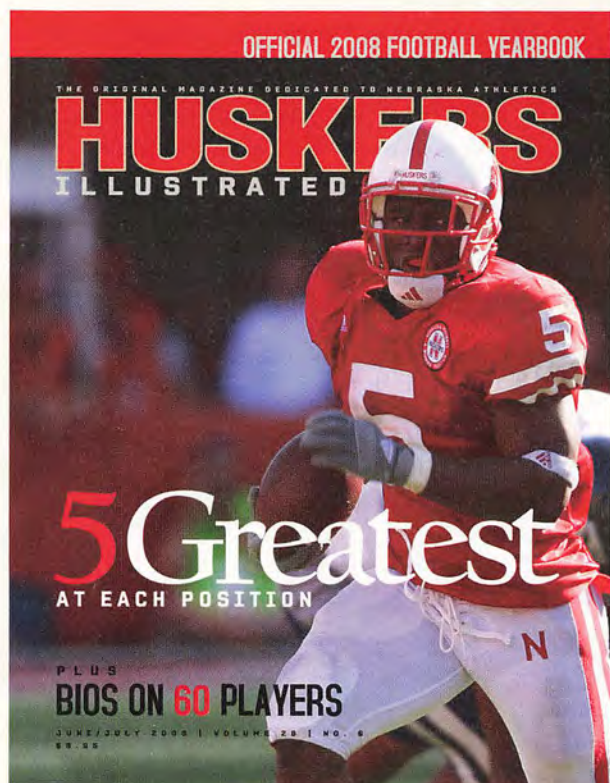
In addition, four freshmen recruits had yet to be cleared and weren't even included on the media guide roster: WR Antonio Bell, OL David Grant, DB Justin Rogers and DB David Whitmore. Coach Bo Pelini mentioned Bell during his preseason news conference.

"We believe he's going to make it and be here eventually," Pelini said of Bell.

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NO JAIVORIO

Sophomore **JAIVORIO BURKES** (above), who was listed as the No. 1 offensive right tackle going in, had to be held out of the first two weeks of fall camp because of high blood pressure. In his absence, redshirted freshman Marcel Jones stepped up to work with the first unit. Also, sophomore D.J. Jones was moved from right guard, where he was listed as the top back-up behind Matt Slauson, to right tackle. Burkes was cleared by doctors and was able to participate, on a limited basis at first, in the final week of camp.

NOT COMING BACK

Even though he missed last season, I-back Kenny Wilson was optimistic in the spring that he would be able to recover sufficiently from a broken leg to play again. Apparently, that won't happen. Even though he is listed in the media guide, Wilson has become a volunteer student coach.

Wilson rushed for 335 yards and four touchdowns in 2006, his first season at Nebraska after transferring from Butler County (Kan.) Community College.

REDSHIRT FOR BLUE?



Cornerback Anthony Blue, who played in every game and started twice last season as a true freshman, could redshirt this season. Blue suffered an ACL injury during winter workouts, missed spring practice and is still recovering. "It takes time, and you can't rush those things," coach Bo Pelini

said prior to the start of preseason practice. "He's progressing, but he's not ready to go out and go through a camp."

He could take advantage of a redshirt. "Absolutely," said Pelini. "It's good for him because once again, when you're talking about knees, he has a bright future, a lot of playing time ahead of him. When it's right, it's right. I don't know if it's going to be a month from now or six months from now. But he'll come back. I think the medical people, everybody, are confident he'll be 100 percent."

HUSKER COACHING DEBUTS



When Bo Pelini and the Huskers take the field against Western Michigan on Aug. 30, it will mark the 28th head coaching debut in Husker history. While Pelini is officially 1-0 after defeating Michigan State, 17-3, in the 2003 Alamo Bowl as the interim head coach, he is looking to become the fifth straight

Husker head coach to win his inaugural game as head coach. Bill Jennings was the last Husker coach to lose his first game at the helm of Nebraska, dropping a 34-12 contest to Washington State on Sept. 21, 1957. The legendary **DANA BIBLE** (pictured) is the only Nebraska coach to earn a tie in his debut, as the Huskers and SMU were scoreless in the 1929 campaign.

YEAR	COACH	OPPONENT	RESULT
2004	Bill Callahan	Western Illinois	W, 56-17
1998	Frank Solich	Louisiana Tech	W, 56-27
1973	Tom Osborne	#10 UCLA	W, 40-13
1962	Bob Devaney	South Dakota	W, 53-0
1957	Bill Jennings	Washington State	L, 12-34
1956	Pete Elliott	South Dakota	W, 34-6
1949	Bill Glassford	South Dakota	W, 33-6
1946	Bernie Masterson	at Minnesota	L, 6-33
1945	George "Potsy" Clark	Oklahoma	L, 0-20
1943	Adolph Lewandowski	at Minnesota	L, 0-54
1942	Glenn Presnell	at Iowa	L, 0-27
1937	Lawrence McCeney "Biff" Jones	Minnesota	W, 14-9
1929	Dana X. Bible	SMU	T, 0-0
1925	Ernest E Bearg	at Illinois	W, 14-0
1921	Fred Dawson	Nebraska Wesleyan	W, 55-0
1919	Henry Schulte	at Iowa	L, 0-18
1918	William G. Kline	Iowa	L, 0-12
1916	E.J. "Doc" Stewart	Drake	W, 53-0
1911	Ewald "Jumbo" Stiehm	Kearney State	W, 117-0
1907	W.C. "King" Cole	Peru State	W, 53-0
1906	Amos Foster	Hastings	W, 56-0
1900	Walter C. "Bummy" Booth	Lincoln High	W, 17-0
1899	A. Edwin Branch	Lincoln High	W, 6-0
1898	Fielding H. Yost	Hastings	W, 76-0
1896	E.N. Robinson	Doane	W, 20-0
1895	Charles Thomas	Sioux City AC	W, 38-0
1893	Frank Crawford	Doane	W, 28-0

2MinuteDrill



N

Matthew May: Imperial, NE



Mathew May is a meat and potatoes guy. Well, he's a potatoes guy, at least.

"You have to like potatoes, I guess," he said. His family is in the potato business, owning

Frenchman Valley Produce, Inc. He worked in the potato fields growing up.

May also grew up liking Cornhusker football, which is why he elected to walk on at Nebraska instead of going to a smaller college, after earning Class C-1 all-state recognition his senior season at Chase County High School as a linebacker and running back. He also played in the Nebraska Shrine Bowl all-star game.

"The first couple of weeks (at Nebraska) were an eye-opener," May said. "You see guys running around, the speed of the game and the size; it's unbelievable. You spend the first couple of practices just kind of wanting to ask these guys for autographs, more than anything, guys you see on TV. It's amazing the level they play at, the focus they play with."

He feels pressure to represent his hometown, but "more than anything I feel a lot of support," said May. "It's nice to go home and have people asking about you, asking about how things are going, saying they saw you on TV, something like that. More than anything it's a really supportive community." **N**

MATHEW MAY

Safety, 6-1, 195, Redshirted freshman

Hometown: Imperial, Neb.

County: Chase, county seat

Population: 1,982 (2000 census)

Distance from Lincoln: 319 miles

What to do there: "We have a lake nearby, Enders Lake. That's the hot spot during the summer. Other than that it's movies or if you want to go to some big town, it's usually McCook or North Platte."

Nebraska football letterman:

Glenn Skewes, FB (1933-34)



SIDELINES

NO ANGEL

Freshman WR **KHIRY COOPER** was a fifth-round pick of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the June draft but he was still practicing with the Cornhuskers after Aug. 15, the deadline for signing. Coach Bo Pelini said he wasn't concerned that Cooper would sign, once he arrived at Nebraska. At that point, Cooper told Pelini the negotiating was finished, and he's a "man of his word," Pelini said.



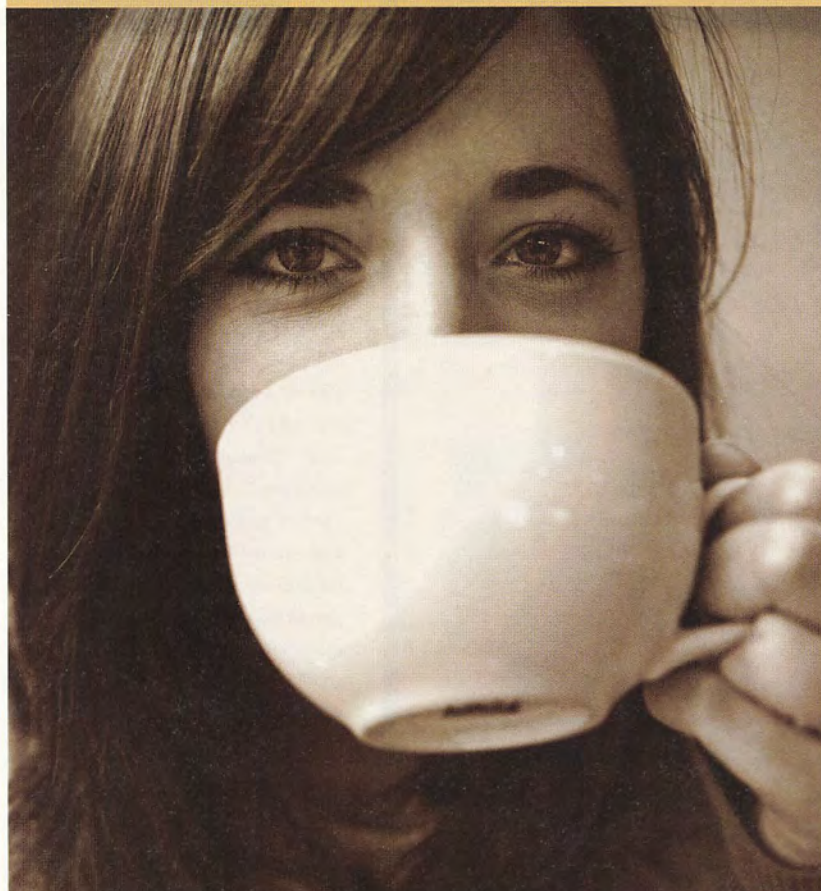
EATING CURFEW

Junior linebacker Phillip Dillard was doing an interview following an early preseason practice. "Give him some doughnuts, man," senior defensive tackle Shukree Barfield said as he passed the cluster of reporters on his way to the locker room. "Seriously, give him some doughnuts."

Dillard is among several players who are lighter. He's listed at 235 pounds, down 25 to 30 from his top weight following last season. He has maintained the 235 since winter conditioning. Besides watching what he eats, he watches when he eats. "If I eat an ice cream bar at night, I'd probably gain 2 pounds," he said. "When you go to sleep, you're not burning calories. So I try not to eat after 7:30 (p.m.)."

The same curfew would apply to doughnuts, of course.

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THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

KU faces early obstacles

IN JUST THE FIRST two weeks of fall camp, Kansas got a big dose of the obstacles it will have to rise above to stay near the top of the Big 12.

The Jayhawks, who already knew they'd have to replace Brandon McAnderson, the Big 12's third-leading rusher last season, lost three running back candidates.

Sophomores Carmon Boyd-Anderson and Donte Bean opted to transfer, while true freshman Sean Ransburg was ruled academically ineligible.

Rather than lament the losses, coach **MARK MANGINO** (pictured) noted how his club still had its top three backs in juniors Jake Sharp (821 yards in 2007), Jocques Crawford (2007 Junior College National Player of the Year at Cisco, Texas, JC) and Angus Quigley. The other back in camp is redshirt freshman Rell Lewis, a converted receiver.

"We've got three guys that we like, four, so I don't have a problem with what we have, to tell you the truth," Mangino told the KU media regulars. "There's no strength in numbers."

Good thing he feels that way, because the Jayhawks might not have any choice when it comes to finding a replacement for steady placekicker Scott Webb (18 for 26 on field goals and 66 of 67 on PATs last season).

Redshirt freshman Stephen Hoge – a PrepStar Magazine All-American in 2006 from Oklahoma City who was listed No. 1 on the preseason depth chart – left the team to concentrate on his pursuit of medical school. And sophomore Jacob Branstetter, a transfer from Air Force, was left petitioning the NCAA hoping to resolve some unexpected eligibility matters.

That left Grady Fowler, a transfer from Butler County Community College, as the only kicker on the Jayhawks' roster. Last year, Fowler received honorable mention All-America honors after hitting 8-of-12 field goals and 53 of 55 PATs.



THE BIG 12 REWIND

OKLAHOMA released incoming freshman receiver Josh Jarboe just before the start of fall camp after a video of him rapping about guns and shooting people appeared on the Internet. Jarboe – arrested in March after an assistant principal at his high school in Ellenwood, Ga., reported him for grabbing a gun from a car (he later pled guilty to charges of bringing a gun to school and carrying a pistol without a license) – transferred to Troy.

Linebacker Auston English, the preseason Big 12 defensive player of the year, returned to contact midway through preseason camp after having an emergency appendectomy just before practice began.

MISSOURI still has Chase Daniel to bank on, but the Tigers' senior quarterback will usher in somewhat of a youth movement this season. Coach Gary Pinkel has said he expects at least eight true freshmen will play in 2008. That's three more than he's used in any of his previous seven seasons. The eight whom Pinkel identified are: tight ends Andrew Jones and Michael Egnew, wide receivers Gahn McGaffie and Jerrell Jackson, offensive tackle Dan Hoch, defensive end Jacques Smith, linebacker Will Ebner and long snapper Beau Brinkley.

COLORADO sophomore Demetrius Sumler emerged from a pack that includes highly touted freshman Darrell Scott to be named the Buffaloes' starting running back for their season opener against Colorado State. Running backs coach Darian Hagan still insists all three of his freshman backs – Ray Polk and Rodney Stewart being the other two – could be in position to play.

The top running back spot at **TEXAS**, which is replacing 2007 Big 12 rushing leader Jamaal Charles, appears to be a tight race between redshirt freshman Fozzy Whittaker and sophomore Vondrell McGee. Whoever wins that battle better hope the Longhorns' offensive line has players ready to pave paths like departed All-American tackle Tony Hills and center Dallas Griffin did.

TEXAS A&M running back Mike Goodson, after missing several days due to a groin injury, showed during a scrimmage midway through camp that he's not going to give up the No. 1 spot easily to ballyhooed freshman Cyrus Gray. After Gray ran 30 yards for a touchdown and then made an over-the-shoulder catch for a 60-yard TD reception, Goodson turned a short dump pass into an 80-yard score and later broke a couple tackles en route to a second TD catch. Looks like the Aggies might have a pair they could play at the same time – utilizing one in a slot position.

TEXAS TECH senior L.A. Reed must have some fancy feet. The former receiver, moved to safety midway through last season, claimed the starting right cornerback spot on the first day he played the position this fall. Reed, practicing with a broken right finger, had never played defense at any level before last year.

Incoming freshman Donnie Carona has been another surprise and appears to be set to take over for graduated kicker Alex Trlica, who set an NCAA record for consecutive made extra points. Carona is the first incoming freshman kicker to initially receive a full scholarship under ninth-year coach Mike Leach. **N**

Huskers storm Texas for six commits

BY RICK SHAW

After signing a record nine prospects from Texas in 2008, Nebraska appears poised to surpass that mark with its 2009 recruiting efforts. The Huskers head into September holding commitments from 10 high school prospects, six of which hail from the Lone Star State.

The new Nebraska coaching staff demonstrated its desire to make Texas a recruiting priority last winter, filling almost one third of its class with prospects from that state. Bo Pelini and his assistants continued building on that momentum over the summer months, gaining pledges from four Texas athletes during a three-week span in July.

Quarterback Cody Green of Dayton (Texas) is, undoubtedly, the most heralded of Nebraska's early commitments. Rated the nation's No. 10 dual-threat quarterback and the No. 33 prospect in the state (four-stars) by Rivals.com, the 6-4, 220-pound standout chose the Huskers over the home state Texas A&M Aggies in mid-summer.

Green saw limited time on the field as a junior, after tearing ligaments in his ankle early in the second game of the season. As a sophomore, however, he completed 105-of-171 passes for 1,429 yards and 19 touchdowns. Possessing good speed (4.6-second 40-yard dash), he also added 333 yards rushing and three more scores, earning 'district newcomer of the year' honors in the process.

Two Texas offensive line prospects joined the Nebraska fold soon after Green.

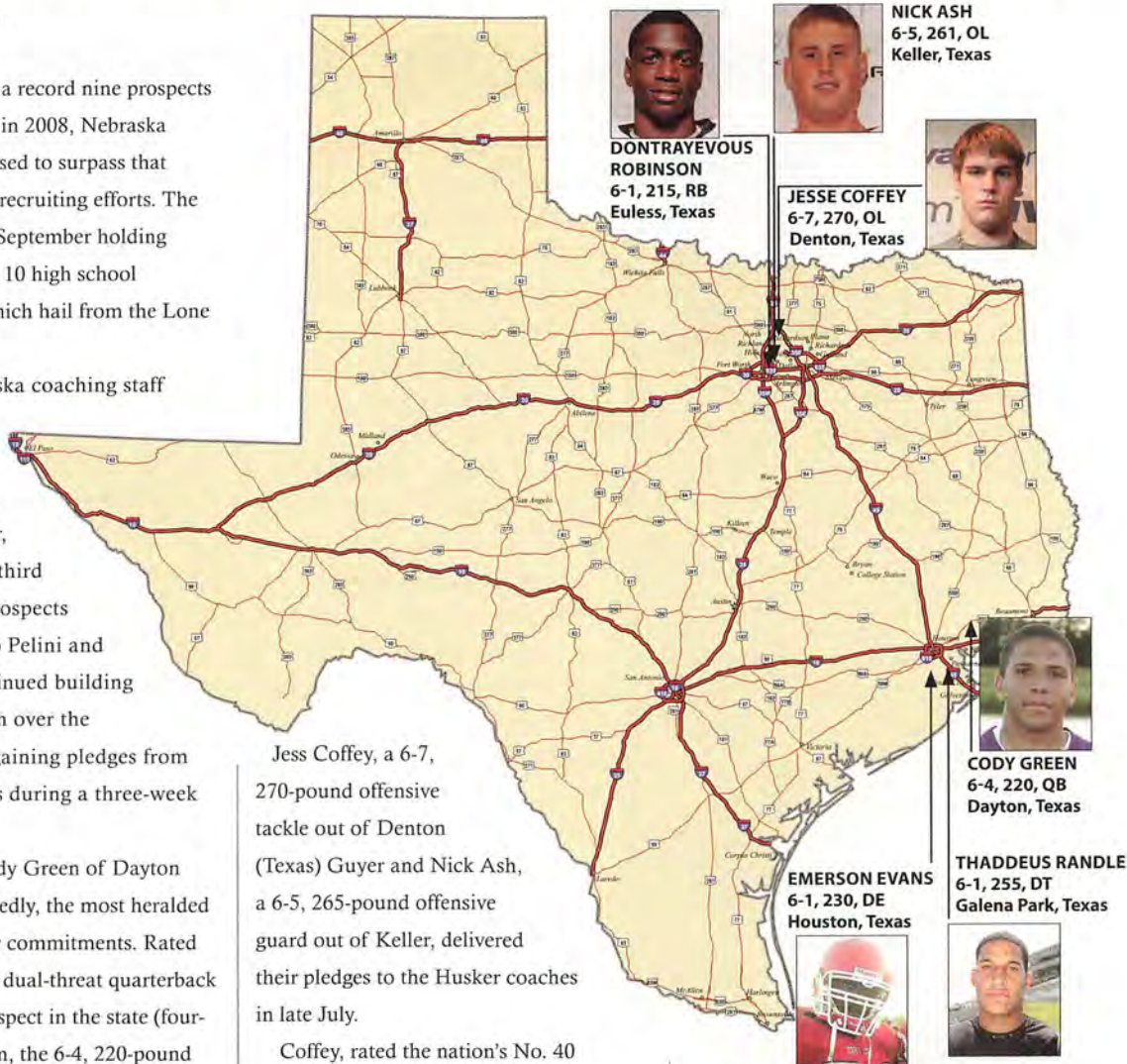
Jess Coffey, a 6-7, 270-pound offensive tackle out of Denton (Texas) Guyer and Nick Ash, a 6-5, 265-pound offensive guard out of Keller, delivered their pledges to the Husker coaches in late July.

Coffey, rated the nation's No. 40 offensive tackle prospect and the No. 80 overall prospect in Texas by Rivals, also held scholarship offers from Arkansas, Harvard, Kansas, Utah and Washington State, among others. In the end, however, he said his decision came down to two Big 12 North conference rivals.

"It was between Kansas and Nebraska," Coffey said about his decision. "It just seemed like I had a better opportunity at Nebraska. It's better for me academically because I can do a lot more with my degree (civil or mechanical engineering) there and is a better step to the next level."

The heavily recruited Ash said that his relationship with the Husker coaches played a primary role in his decision to join the Big Red class.

"I really like Nebraska's coaching staff," Ash said. "I really got the chance to know coach Carl Pelini, Coach (Barney) Cotton and Coach (Bo) Pelini pretty well when I was up there during the summer. They told me about the plans for their offense and how they want to change things up a bit. They want to go back to the way Nebraska used to be and run the ball and mix in a lot of play action – mix it up more than it has



been lately."

Ash, rated the nation's No. 28 offensive guard prospect and the No. 81 overall prospect in the state by Rivals, also considered offers from Arizona, Kansas, Houston, Purdue, TCU, Texas Tech, Washington State, Vanderbilt and others

"We like to let him line up on that tackle and let him whip his tail. He's a compact player, has long arms, but is just unbelievable as far as explosion."

**TREVOR WHITE – TAYLOR HEAD COACH
ON COMMIT EMERSON EVANS**

before opting to play for the Huskers.

Defensive end Emerson Evans chose Nebraska over tenders from Ole Miss, Utah and UTEP. Though the 6-1, 230-pound pass rushing specialist out of Alief Taylor High in Houston has flown a bit under the recruiting radar, he has the potential to be difference-maker defender for the Blackshirt defense in Lincoln.

Taylor head coach Trevor White said that Evans' ability to get after opposing quarterbacks is something NU fans will appreciate.

"He is just an extremely explosive, edge guy," White said. "He's a guy that can get after the quarterback, kind of as an outside linebacker in a 3-4 – just an explosive player. He may be a situational guy at the next level because he's got a motor that's just relentless. We play a 3-4 and he plays defensive end for us because we don't want to burden him with contain."

"We like to let him line up on that tackle and let him whip his tail. He's a compact player, has long arms, but is just unbelievable as far as explosion."

Rated a two-star prospect by Rivals.com, Evans earned second-team all-district honors in 2007 after racking up 87 tackles and 16 sacks.

The Nebraska coaching staff hopes to add

a few more Texas gems to its 2009 recruiting class over the course of the next few months. That prospect seems likely since several Texas standouts currently list the Huskers prominently among their college favorites.

Rex Burkhead, a 5-11, 190-pound running back out of Plano, has indicated that Nebraska will, almost certainly, be among his five finalists when he trims his college list early this fall. Rated the nation's No. 14 all-purpose running back (four-stars) by Rivals, Burkhead rushed for 1,768 yards and 29 touchdowns as a junior.

Another four-star running back, Knile Davis of Fort Bend (Texas) Marshall, recently announced a top three of Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma. The 6-1, 209-pounder, rated the nation's No. 14 running back prospect by Rivals, said he plans to visit Lincoln sometime this fall.

Wide Receiver Brady Brown, rated the state's No. 51 overall prospect by Rivals, hopes to make his college decision soon. The 6-5, 195-pounder out of Argyle, caught 97 passes for 1,077 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior. He currently favors Nebraska and Kansas.

Defensive tackle Siosaia Tuipulotu out of Euless (Texas) Trinity currently has the Huskers in the lead and has scheduled an official visit to Lincoln for September 5. The 6-2, 285-pound lineman, rated the No. 49 prospect in the state by Rivals, is a teammate of current Nebraska running back commit Dontrayevous Robinson.

Top cornerback prospect Andrew Green, rated the No. 50 prospect in Texas by Rivals, lists Nebraska among his leaders. The 6-0, 180-pound blue-chipper out of Madison High in San Antonio said he plans to visit Lincoln sometime this fall.

It's possible that Nebraska could fill half of its 2009 class (12 to 13 prospects) with athletes from Texas. That's by design. Being a major recruiting presence in Texas is a strategy that the Nebraska coaching staff intends to maintain. **N**

COMMITTED



HUSKERS LAND A BIG CATCH

Nebraska quarterback commit **CODY GREEN** knows this is a big year.

Green, considered the nation's No. 10 dual-threat quarterback prospect by Rivals.com, is the most heavily recruited player currently on the Huskers' commitment list after picking NU over Texas A&M in July. On top of all that, the beginning of his senior season at Dayton High School will mark the first live game action he's seen in close to ten months since his ankle injury.

"You have this stamp on your face that says I'm going to Nebraska, so I have to exceed everybody's expectations," Green said. "I'm pretty much going to have so much energy, that I'm not going to know what to do with myself."

He says every day he sees a Nebraska shirt in his closet and "can't wait to get there." The depth chart and quarterbacks coach Shawn Watson were big reasons for his decision.

Off the field, it's fishing that keeps him busy. "I go probably every day," he said. "It's just to get out and get away from everything."

On his last trip to Lincoln, Green says he got out to do some fishing as well. The quarterback lists many reasons why he chose the Huskers, he says the ability to get outside and fish certainly didn't hurt.

"It helped out," he said with a laugh. "But I know that everywhere has at least a couple ponds around."

by John Talman, Recruiting Publisher,
HuskiersIllustrated.com

Sunshine State Surprise

by Sean Stevens

NEBRASKA FOOTBALL has always had at least a couple of Floridians on their roster. Currently only senior Armando Murillo and sophomores LaTravis Washington and Cruz Barrett hail from Florida. The 2008 recruiting class included Antonio Bell of Daytona Beach; however Bell has not made it to campus as he awaits academic clarification.

Floridians aren't prevalent on the roster, so when defensive back **DEANDRE BYRD** (below) (5-10/170) of Tallahassee gave his oral commitment to NU head coach Bo Pelini early in August, it came as quite a surprise. Byrd's recruitment was "under-the-radar," as



COURTESY OF TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

he had yet to name any favorites in print.

The time Pelini spent with Byrd while Pelini was still the defensive coordinator at LSU weighed heavily in Byrd's decision.

"I was actually on a recruiting trip with (former high school teammate) T.J. Bryant and I got a chance to meet him then," Byrd said. "Coach Pelini really gets after it and doesn't just talk about what he expects, but is very active with his players in showing them how to do things right. Nebraska mentioned how they were looking to hit the state of Florida harder and coach Pelini likes how fast I can close on the ball and my cover skills. I'm just so excited right now to be heading over to Nebraska."

One of Byrd's high school coaches gave some insight into his playing style and ability.

"He's a great cover corner and plays with a lot of aggression in man-on-man coverage. I think he's going over to a great system at Nebraska with coach Pelini who's always done a great job wherever he's been," said coach Tony Collins.

Byrd chose NU from over 20 offers, including Colorado, Arkansas, Michigan State, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. **N**

SIDELINES

TIGHT END PROSPECTS

During the 2008 recruiting cycle Nebraska signed two tight ends – Ben Cotton and Kyler Reed. For the 2009 class they're likely to sign only one. One of their top targets – San Diego, Calif. tight end J.T. Kerr (6-4/230) – made an unofficial visit to Lincoln during the first week of fall camp and came away impressed.

"It couldn't have gone any better – it was everything I expected and more," Kerr said. "I thought I had a good relationship with coach (Ron) Brown from talking with him on the telephone and from when he came to see me, but there's so much more to him when you meet him in person. He's such a great guy."

Although he nearly committed, Kerr will wait for an official visit to Lincoln at either the Virginia Tech or New Mexico State games before deciding.

NORTH DAKOTA COMMIT

Just before press time Nebraska received their eleventh oral commitment from Williston, N.D. offensive lineman Brent Qvale (6-7/300). Earlier this summer he had eliminated Iowa to narrow his choices to NU and Wisconsin.

"I felt at home there," Qvale said. "I like what the program has and the tradition – everything about it. It was between Wisconsin and Nebraska and I just fit in better at Nebraska."

Qvale is ranked as a 3-star prospect by Rivals.com.

2009 Nebraska Commitment List

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Euless, Texas (Trinity)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)

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SELENIA IACCHELLI



WOMEN'S SOCCER **Iacchelli not immune to injury bug**

BY TOMMY DAHLK

Something has separated senior midfielder Selenia Iacchelli from some of Nebraska's other veteran soccer players.

Unlike fourth-year juniors Lindsay Poehling and Lauren Isenhower and seniors Aysha Jamani and Sari Raber, Iacchelli has avoided injuries while the others have missed substantial time during their careers.

Well, after three years of being the healthiest Husker, the injury bug that's plagued recent Husker teams finally bit the senior from Edmonton, Alberta, this summer while she was playing in the W-league for the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Iacchelli said she has a stress fracture on the ball of her foot. She noticed it earlier in

the summer because of pain in the arch. But she kept playing.

"It was kind of just an overuse injury," Iacchelli said.

Luckily, unlike the other veteran Huskers, her injury won't keep her out for too long, and she'll hopefully make it back by the start of the regular season.

Head coach John Walker said getting Iacchelli back is imperative for the young Husker team.

"Selenia is obviously a key player; hopefully she'll be back out there by the end of the month (August)," Walker said.

After serving a supporting role to stars such as Brittany Timko and Sasha Andrews during her first two years, Iacchelli stepped up on last year's team, which featured 14 true freshmen.

With Timko gone, Iacchelli took over on corner and free kicks. She also finished

second on the team in goals and points while attempting the most shots on the team.

Iacchelli is looking to improve even more during her senior year and said the injury will only set things back a little.

"I came into this season pumped because it is my last year," Iacchelli said. "I just wanted to be a big part of the team. I mean, I still will be, but I wanted to right from the start. Still, it could have been fractured or could have happened later. It's OK. It hopefully won't set me back too much and I'll miss at most one or two games."

The Huskers are much more confident this fall since last year's 14 freshmen have a year of much-needed experience.

After finishing with the worst record in team history last year, Iacchelli said the Huskers look to put the program back on the map this year.

It could happen, as long as Iacchelli and others remain on the field.

"Everyone seems much more mature and we feel like a unit already," Iacchelli said. "Last year at this time we were trying to just get to know each other and we were miles behind at this point. People might think we are the underdog, but I don't think that is the case at all. I think this is the year for Nebraska to get back to where we were 10 years ago. Our team looks so great right now."

2008 WOMEN'S SOCCER ROSTER

No.	Name	Po.	Ht.	Yr.
2	Powell, Shay	F	5-5	Jr.
4	Goetzmann, Colleen	MF	5-7	So.
5	Goetzmann, Katie	MF	5-7	RFr.
6	Slapper, Blair	D	5-8	RFr.
7	Raber, Sari	MF	5-6	Sr.
8	Thomas, Molly	F	5-5	Fr.
9	Iacchelli, Selenia	MF	5-9	Sr.
00	Pfeil, Brittany	GK	5-9	Sr.
10	Peetz, Carly	D	5-8	Jr.
11	Mills, Jessica	GK	5-7	So.
12	Lanier, Brittny	MF	5-7	Jr.
13	Sanchez, Jamie	D	5-7	RFr.
14	Jamani, Aysha	F	5-3	Sr.
16	Dickerson, Shannon	MF	5-11	So.
17	Zuniga, Andrea	F	5-4	So.
19	Poehling, Lindsay	D	5-4	Sr.
20	Caniglia, Anna	D	5-8	Jr.
21	Fulmer, Michaela	F	5-4	So.
23	Goosen, Brittany	D	5-7	So.
24	Berkshire, Julie	MF	5-10	Jr.
27	White, Jaclyn	F	6-0	So.
30	Cardona, Alexa	F	5-5	So.
31	Eilman, Brianna	MF	5-5	RFr.
77	Isenhower, Lauren	F	5-9	Jr.
91	White, Anna	MF	5-6	So..

HUSKER QUICK HITS



HUSKER WINS OLYMPIC BRONZE FOR CANADA

PRISCILLA LOPES-SCHLIEP (above) earned her first Olympic medal at the Bird's Nest in Beijing with a third-place finish in the women's 100-meter hurdles. The former collegiate national champion and eight-time All-American for Nebraska made a final push to finish with a time of 12.64 and the first medal for Canada in track since 1996.

"I feel like I've jumped out of my body, went back to heaven and back," Lopes-Schliep said.

COMPETING ABROAD

Husker All-America wrestler Jordan Burroughs finished 10th in the 66 kilogram division (145.5 pounds) at the FILA World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey. Burroughs, a junior, had a 2-1 record. Husker coach Mark Manning

served as a coach for the United States team, which finished fourth in the international competition, behind Russia, Iran and Georgia.

7TH, WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

Coach John Cook's volleyball team was ranked No. 7 in the CBS College Sports/AVCA Preseason Coaches poll. The Huskers received one first-place vote from among the 60 coaches who vote in the poll. Penn State was No. 1 in the poll, followed by Stanford, Texas, USC, California and UCLA. Nebraska will play Stanford and USC in the season-opening Runza/AVCA Showcase in Omaha, Aug. 29-31.

The Huskers were picked to finish second to Texas in the Big 12 by conference coaches.

OOPS, THEY'RE GONE

How much interest is there in Husker volleyball? Consider that regular-season single-match tickets at the NU Coliseum went on sale at 8 a.m. the first Tuesday in August. At 8:10 a.m. all the tickets were sold. A year ago, the single-match tickets sold in 45 minutes. So the Huskers' sellout streak at the Coliseum will increase to 118 matches in 2008.

2008 WOMEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE

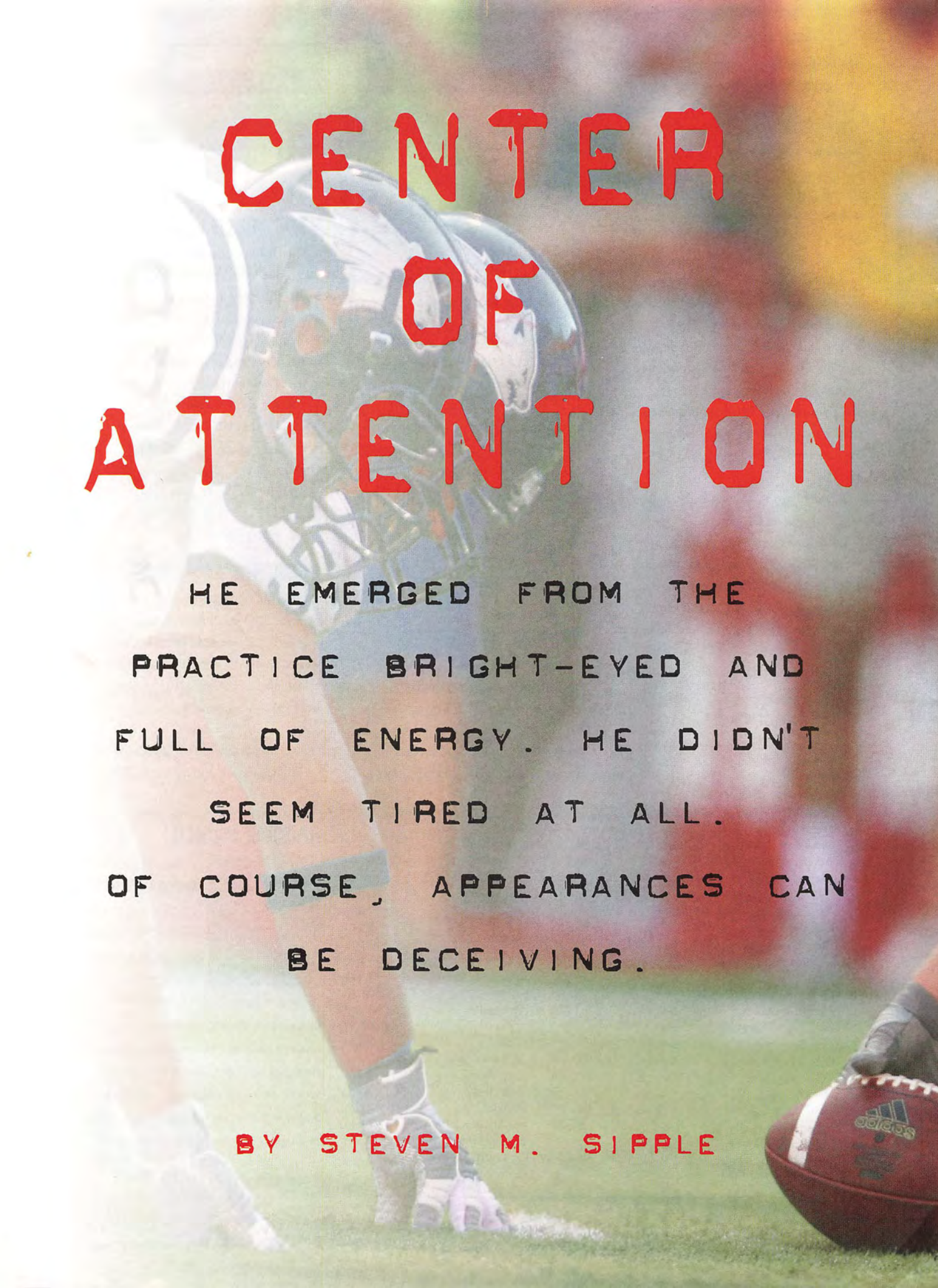
Aug. 22	at Northwestern	5 p.m.
Aug. 29	UC Riverside	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	at Florida	Noon
Sep. 5	at Saint Louis	7:30 p.m.
Sep. 7	UAB	1 p.m.
Sep. 12	Drake	5 p.m.
Sep. 14	Oakland	1 p.m.
Sep. 19	North Dakota State	5 p.m.
Sep. 21	Stephen F. Austin	1 p.m.
Sep. 26	Kansas	4:30 p.m.
Sep. 28	Missouri	1 p.m.
Oct. 3	Texas	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Baylor	1 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Texas A&M	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	Colorado	4 p.m.
Oct. 19	Texas Tech	Noon
Oct. 24	at Oklahoma	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Oklahoma State	1 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Iowa State	7 p.m.
Nov. 5-9	Big 12 Championship	
	San Antonio, Texas	

JAMANI PICKED



Husker senior **AYSHA JAMANI** was selected to the conference coaches' preseason All-Big 12 soccer team.

Jamani, who also was named to the team last season, started the first 10 contests a year ago before being sidelined by a ruptured Achilles. She is a two-time second-team all-conference honoree and went into this season having scored 11 career goals, with eight assists in 47 starts.



CENTER OF ATTENTION

HE EMERGED FROM THE
PRACTICE BRIGHT-EYED AND
FULL OF ENERGY. HE DIDN'T
SEEM TIRED AT ALL.
OF COURSE, APPEARANCES CAN
BE DECEIVING.

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE



Hickman energized by key role

"Actually, I'm drained," Jacob Hickman said. "But after practice you get a little second wind because you know you get a little rest for the night."

The Nebraska junior center was looking forward to going home to his wife, Savannah, of one year.

"She's working and being the breadwinner for the family, and I'm going to school," Hickman said.

Not to mention anchoring the Huskers' veteran offensive line, which features four players who made at least eight starts in 2007 – Hickman, left guard Mike Huff, right guard Matt Slauson and left tackle Lydon Murtha. The unit is projected to be a strength for NU in 2008 as Big Red tries to rebound from last season's disappointing 5-7 finish.

Hickman, a native of Bakersfield, Calif., understands the significance of his role.

Mentally, he said, "the center is really the glue to the line. We have so many leaders. But when it comes to playing center you have to know how to make all of the line calls. That's kind of big. If there's any question, you have to make the call because the other linemen can't see both sides. There's so much to see, and I have the best view of anybody.

"I like the responsibility because I feel like I have a little bit more control of the situation."

Hickman apparently has a stranglehold on his starting job. Behind him on the preseason depth chart was Mike Caputo, a redshirted freshman walk-on from Omaha, Neb., who draws raves for his relentlessness and intelligence but lacks Hickman's overall experience.

The 6-4, 285-pound Hickman has started 10 games over the past two seasons at guard, including nine games last fall when Nebraska

by Steven M. Sipple

put up its best offensive totals in a decade. He was a backup center early last season behind senior Brett Byford before taking over as starting left guard for the final nine games following an injury to Andy Christensen.

In 2006, Hickman appeared in five games as a true freshman, drawing a start at right guard in a crucial late-season win against Missouri. He became only the second true freshman NU offensive lineman to start a game since the NCAA reinstated freshman eligibility in 1972. Slauson became the first such player in 2005, starting the final three games.

Hickman is an interesting study because he's easily the lightest of Nebraska's first-string offensive linemen.

"But he's big enough," said Nebraska offensive line coach Barney Cotton. "He plays really hard. He plays with a lot of energy. Some guys play with pretty big hearts. If you play with a pretty good pad level and are a good technician, you can get by with less weight."

Hickman's intelligence also helps matters. Since arriving on campus, he's played center, guard and tackle.

"He's really smart," Slauson said. "He knows all the ins and outs and he's vocal, too. He lets everyone know where they're going . . . well, at least the guards and then the guards tell the outside guys."

Hickman isn't the most athletic-looking Big Red lineman.

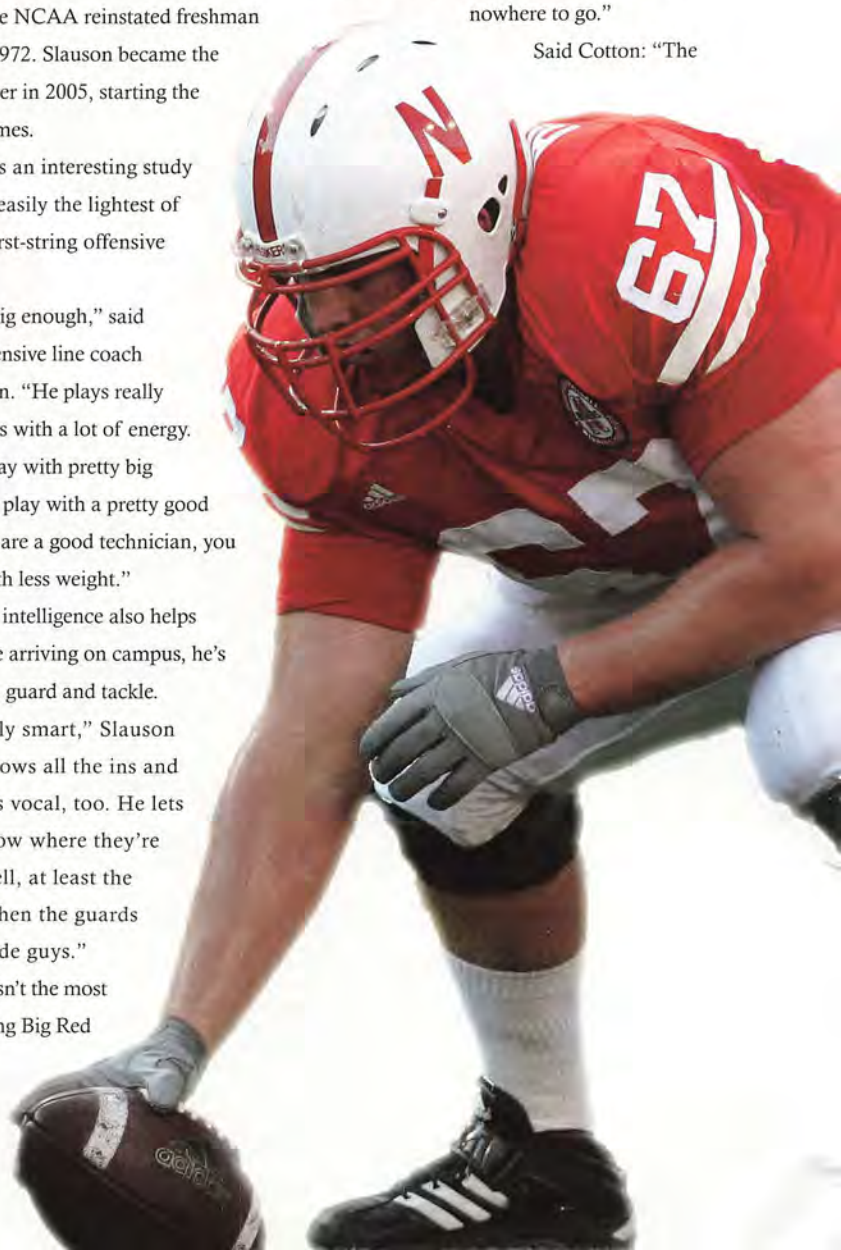
"You

watch him walk around and do some drills, you would say he's not very athletic," Cotton said. "But when he has pads on, between the whistles, he's very athletic."

Athleticism is crucial at the center position, Hickman said.

"A lot of the plays are basically dependent on whether the center can make reach block or get to the linebacker, because that really starts a lot of the run plays," he said. "If he doesn't get that taken care of, the play has no choice but to go backward -- the back has nowhere to go."

Said Cotton: "The



hardest thing (for a center) is you're playing one-handed for a split-second. You've got your hand between your legs and you're playing one-handed, where everybody else gets to play with two. The most important thing is to snap the ball. But if you snap it and don't step, it's over. So you've got to be able to snap and step and block, all at the same time."

Hickman had never played center before coming to Nebraska. At Centennial High School in Bakersfield, he

played lineman on both sides of the ball, recording 13 sacks during his junior season. He was ranked among the top 50 prospects in California by Rivals.com and received scholarship offers from Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado, Washington and UCLA.

As Nebraska pushed through 2008 preseason camp -- with new head coach Bo Pelini running the show -- Hickman continued to work on the nuances of his new position.

"Realistically, if you know the plays, it's not that big of a difference besides the snap," he said. "That was awkward at first. Now the only thing I worry about is (quarterback)

Joe (Ganz) and I sometimes have some problems with the shotgun snaps. I had never done that before

"The hardest thing (for a center) is you're playing one-handed for a split second... So you've got to be able to snap and step and block, all at the same time."

OFFENSIVE LINE COACH BARNEY COTTON

now, and he tells me to get it back there a little quicker."

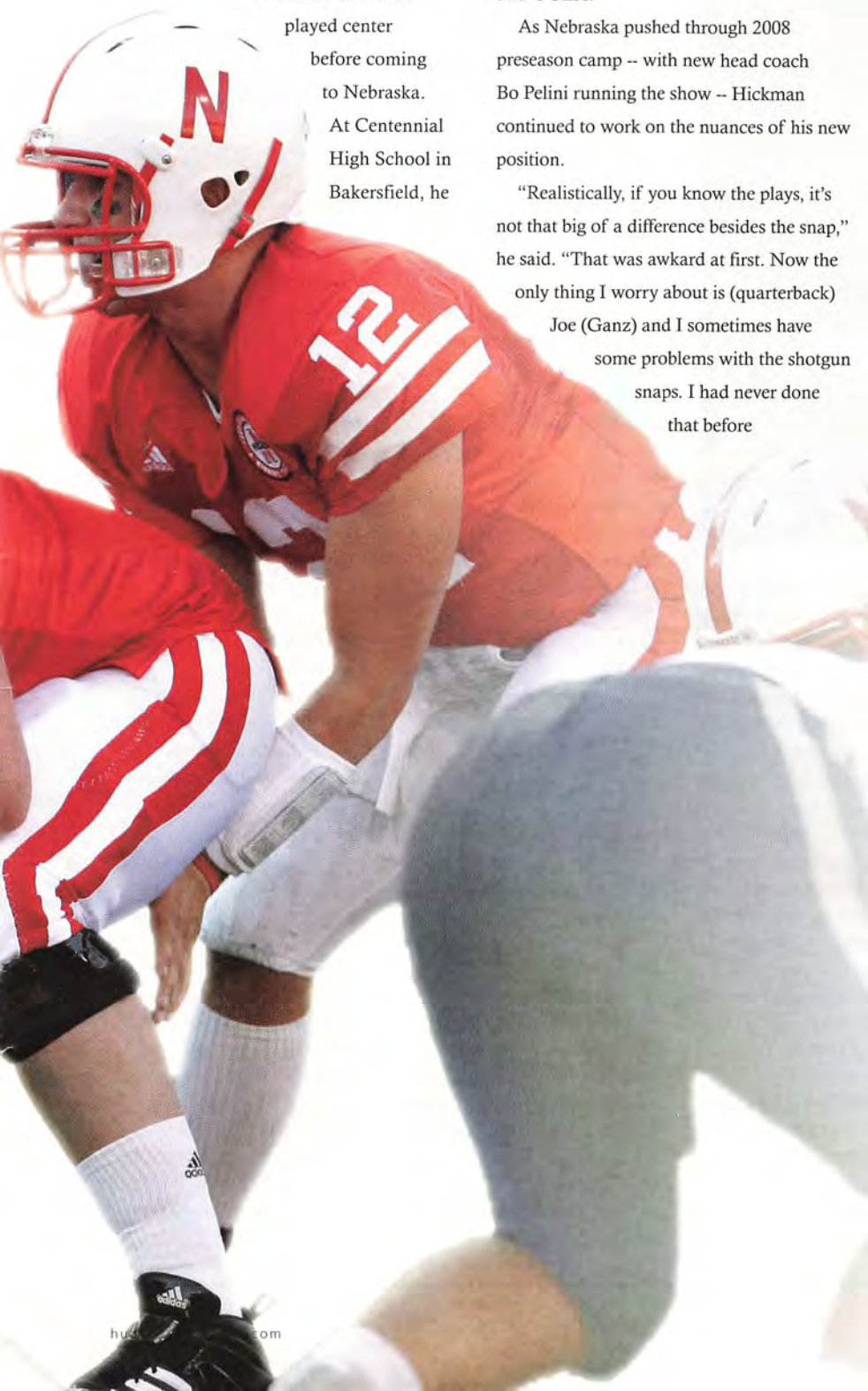
Hickman and Ganz worked together on snaps during the summer months, when college teams aren't allowed to participate in full-scale drills. "Any time you try snapping when there's nobody in front of you, it's never the same," Hickman said. "When you have a big guy like Ndamukong Suh in front of you, and you snap the ball and get hit in the face, it changes things up a tad."

Hickman obviously embraces the challenge. He seemed full of energy after a practice on a pleasant day in early August. He spoke optimistically about playing in a versatile offense that features a line with ample experience. Slauson has started 22 games in his career, Huff 19, and Murtha 14. Offensive coordinator Shawn Watson obviously is leaning on that experience.

"Coach Watson does really give us a lot of responsibility," Hickman said. "We can make a lot of calls that we weren't necessarily doing last year. We knew how to do it. But we have a little bit more responsibility with it now just because we have so much experience."

Hickman takes pride in the high expectations Husker fans have for the o-line. The lineman takes it personally, he said.

"If we mess up, you know, we realize it's not really acceptable, because we have to be the best unit on the team. You always hear: Where the line goes, the team goes. I appreciate the sentiment of being told we're the strength of the team. But at the same time, a lot goes into making sure we accomplish it." **N**





Senior Ledbetter leads Broncos into Lincoln

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE



COURTESY OF GS PHOTO

BRANDEN LEDBETTER

evidently plays it close to the vest in media interviews.

A reporter probably won't learn much if he or she asks the standout Western Michigan tight end about Broncos head coach Bill Cubit's offensive wisdom.

What should Nebraska fans expect to see offensively from Western Michigan on Aug. 30 in Lincoln?

"I can't really go into too much detail about that," said Ledbetter, perhaps protecting playbook secrets.

Is there a particular strength of Western Michigan's offense?

"I can't really go into strengths," Ledbetter said. "But we've been preparing a lot. It should be really exciting."

The 6-5, 240-pound Ledbetter, a senior from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., might be a rather bland

interview at times, but he makes some exciting plays on the field, according to Western Michigan tight ends coach/recruiting coordinator Jake Moreland. Ledbetter enters the 2008 season on the watch list for the John Mackey Award, which goes to the nation's top tight end.

"He's been a really good fit for our offense because of the way he's able to stretch the field," said Moreland, noting that Ledbetter arrived at Western Michigan in 2004 as a 200-pound wide receiver. "We moved him inside to try to see if we could get some better match-ups with safeties and linebackers."

"He's got pretty good change of direction. He runs very well. He catches the ball well in traffic. We ask him to go across the middle quite a bit. Even in traffic, you know, he'll take a big

hit, but a lot of times he's going to come down with the ball and give us some of those emotional plays we need."

Ledbetter last season finished with 38 receptions for 550 yards (14.5 per catch) and six touchdowns, which tied wideout Jamarko Simmons for the team lead. Simmons also returns in 2008.

"For a tight end, Branden moves around pretty well," Moreland said. "And it seems that that is where the tight end position is headed -- if you look at the pretty good passing teams, a lot of them have those long and lean guys who have been wide receivers in the past."

After sitting out the 2004 season as a redshirt, Ledbetter began to make his mark as a receiver with 11 receptions in 2005. After a strong 2006 season (six TD receptions), he broke out in 2007.

"We try to play an up-tempo kind of offense," Moreland said. "I don't think that's a secret to anybody who's ever watched our film. But the biggest thing -- and I think this is true for any offense -- is you're trying to get (favorable) match-ups for your best players."

"The one thing Coach Cubit's been able to do over the years is, he's been able to get his playmakers the ball."

Ledbetter chose Western Michigan in 2004 after receiving recruiting overtures from Miami and Rutgers, although neither the Hurricanes nor Scarlet Knights offered scholarships.

He's come a long way as a player and student, Moreland said.

"When we (the current WMU coaches) first got here (in 2005), Branden was a little bit in trouble academically, and he turned it around 180 degrees," Moreland said. "He's almost a 3.0 student cumulative now. He's going to earn his degree in five years. He's a standup guy."

"He's not one of those guys who's going to come out and tell you how things are supposed to be, and then do the exact opposite. He's a guy who leads by example. He plays as hard as anybody I've ever been around."

Ledbetter sounds excited about coming to Lincoln. Western Michigan finished 5-7 overall in 2007, including 3-4 in the Mid-American Conference's West Division. The Broncos return 11 starters on defense and eight on offense, including quarterback Tim Hiller and running back Brandon West.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm among the players," Ledbetter said. "It's really a different atmosphere out there at practice right now. We can't wait to get it started off at Nebraska."

Western Michigan won't be intimidated in Lincoln, he said.

"We play a lot of big teams," he said. "Last year we had West Virginia (a 62-24 loss), Missouri (52-24 loss) and Iowa (28-19 victory). We prepare for every game the same."

"We've heard a lot of great things about Memorial Stadium," Ledbetter added. "And they're obviously a great team. They have really good fans. I've heard they pack the house pretty well."

WESTERN MICHIGAN ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
12	Amheim, Robert	QB	6-2	195	RFr.
18	Burdi, Drew	QB	6-1	198	So.
14	Carder, Alex	QB	6-2	205	Fr.
3	Hiller, Tim	QB	6-5	228	Jr.
25	Jagels, Alex	QB	6-3	210	So.
10	Reedy, Dennis	QB	6-2	199	Sr.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
61	Clemens, Nick	OL	6-4	307	So.
76	Ellingsen, Steve	OL	6-4	307	Sr.
73	Fretz, Kevin	OL	6-3	233	Fr.
62	Galeher, Kevin	OT	6-5	295	Fr.
71	Hamilton, Howard	OL	6-5	270	Fr.
69	Harrington, Tom	LS	6-0	223	Jr.
79	Jack, Jonathan	OL	6-6	340	RFr.
64	Jaeger, Sam	OL	6-5	321	Fr.
67	Johnson, Rob	OT	6-4	338	Sr.
77	Lochmann, Matt	OT	6-4	299	Jr.
60	Mitchell, Nick	OL	6-1	290	So.
72	Parker, Anthony	OL	6-5	305	RFr.
58	Pethan, Lee	OL	6-4	285	RFr.
75	Starkey, Alex	OL	6-4	280	Fr.
65	Swanson, Phillip	OL	6-4	307	So.
63	Wasikowski, Paul	OG	6-3	291	Jr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
24	Crawford, Bobby	RB	5-7	191	So.
36	Deshazor, Jaron	RB	5-8	190	RFr.
40	Elsworth, Kirk	RB	6-0	225	Sr.
7	Simpson, Jamie	RB	6-1	237	Fr.
22	Thompson, Glenis	RB	5-8	210	Jr.
2	West, Brandon	RB	5-10	188	Jr.
23	Winchester, Aaron	RB	5-9	190	Fr.

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
42	Baliko, Chad	TE	6-3	239	Jr.
20	Clark, Caleb	WR	6-2	212	Jr.
31	Dreher, Paul	TE	6-5	260	Fr.
85	Hammond, Blake	TE	6-5	236	Fr.
86	Hinds, Scott	WR	6-3	190	Fr.
11	Julien, Schneider	WR	5-10	175	Sr.
5	Lawrence, Deshon	WR	6-0	175	RFr.
82	Ledbetter, Brandon	TE	6-5	230	Sr.
46	Lefere, Patrick	WR	6-0	175	Fr.
34	Monette, Eric	WR	6-5	180	Fr.
4	Murray, Jamelle	WR	5-8	167	So.
81	Nunez, Juan	WR	6-0	172	So.
32	O'Neill, James	TE	6-5	234	So.
89	Patterson, Seth	WR	6-3	185	Fr.
80	Riley, E.J.	WR	6-0	180	Fr.
27	Simmons, Jamarko	WR	6-2	234	Sr.
84	Stevens, Matt	TE	6-4	243	Jr.
83	White, Jordan	WR	6-0	206	So.
16	Williams, Anthony	TE	6-2	230	So.
87	Zipfel, Jeff	TE	6-6	215	Fr.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
97	Bishop, Freddie	DE	6-4	247	Fr.
48	Braska, Justin	DE	6-4	234	Jr.
57	Byrne, Ryan	DT	6-0	275	Fr.
68	Cielenski, Cody	DT	6-2	280	Jr.
90	Davidson, Zach	DE	6-2	257	Sr.
98	Flom, Cory	DT	6-4	276	Sr.
80	Kashama, Fernand	DE	6-3	221	Sr.
50	Lackner, Kyle	DE	6-3	230	Fr.
54	Legrier, Deauntay	DE	6-1	240	Fr.
94	Marshall, Greg	DE	6-0	245	Sr.
91	Nemeth, Grant	DT	6-2	270	Sr.
92	Nowak, Drew	DT	6-4	250	Fr.
96	Peiffer, Weston	DE	6-4	245	Fr.
95	Pyant, Chris	DT	6-3	269	So.
93	Russell, John	DT	6-3	269	Sr.
99	Varcadipane, Nick	DT	6-2	285	Sr.

#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
33	Armstrong, Mario	SS	6-0	188	So.
34	Berry, Jamail	SS	6-0	190	So.
1	Biggers, E.J.	CB	6-0	180	Sr.
8	Dawsey, Kelly	CB	6-0	177	Fr.
9	Delmas, Louis	FS	5-11	196	Sr.
28	Dixon, Keith	CB	6-1	185	RFr.
15	Dorcelly, Andy	FS	6-0	194	Jr.
6	Fryar, London	CB	5-11	192	Sr.
25	Lewis, David	CB	5-10	170	So.
19	Price, Josh	CB	6-0	195	Fr.
21	Sadler, Ravelle	CB	5-10	175	Fr.
46	Stephen, Desman	CB	6-0	190	Sr.
27	Stewart, Vernon	SS	5-11	190	RFr.
30	Wallace, Dervon	SS	6-0	180	RFr.
1	Wiggins, Doug	S	5-11	197	So.
26	Wilson, C.J.	FS	6-2	206	Fr.

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
59	Dudo, Dustin	LB	5-10	225	Sr.
29	Gajos, Scott	LB	6-0	223	Sr.
34	Gibbs, Denmark	LB	6-1	200	RFr.
41	Krasinski, Dan	LB	6-0	212	Jr.
43	McCormell, Boston	LB	6-1	233	Sr.
40	Murphy, Matt	LB	6-1	217	So.
53	Pickens, Matt	LB	6-0	215	So.
42	Polmanteer, Jason	LB	6-4	235	Fr.
35	Pritchard, Austin	LB	6-4	233	Jr.
38	Prom, Chris	LB	6-4	220	Fr.
39	Ross, Waymon	LB	6-1	225	Fr.
55	Scott, Doug	LB	6-3	210	Fr.

#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
37	Arner, Ben	P	5-10	201	RFr.
35	Balice, Tim	P	5-11	195	So.
37	Bunbury, Brooks	K	5-8	188	So.
26	Kelly, Chris	K	5-10	210	Jr.
66	Morris, Caleb	K	6-0	210	So.
17	Potter, John	K	6-2	195	Fr.

NEBRASKA TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

OFFENSE					
WR	87	Swift, Nate	6-2	200	Sr.
	4	Holt, Menelik	6-4	220	Jr.
	1	Brooks, Chris	6-2	210	Jr.
LT	76	Murtha, Lydon	6-7	315	Sr.
	65	Smith, Mike	6-6	285	So.
LG	61	Mike Huff	6-4	300	So.
	68	Keith Williams	6-5	305	RFr.
C	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	290	Jr.
	58	Mike Caputo	6-1	275	RFr.
RG	70	Matt Slauson	6-5	320	Sr.
	73	D.J. Jones	6-5	305	So.
RT	72	Jaivorio Burkes	6-5	325	So.
	78	Marcel Jones	6-7	310	RFr.
TE	44	Mike McNeill	6-4	240	So.
	80	Ryan Hil	6-3	245	RFr.
WR	17	Todd Peterson	6-4	215	Sr.
	24	Niles Paul	6-1	210	So.
(or)	11	Curenski Gilleylen	6-0	210	RFr.
QB	12	Ganz, Joe	6-1	210	Sr.
	2	Witt, Patrick	6-4	225	RFr.
	3	Lee, Zac	6-2	210	So.
IB	5	Marlon Lucky	6-0	215	Sr.
(or)	10	Roy Helu Jr.	6-0	215	So.
	29	Quentin Castille	6-1	245	So.
FB	36	Thomas Lawson	6-0	250	Sr.
	45	Justin Makovicka	6-1	240	So.



DEFENSE					
DE	98	Zach Potter	6-7	280	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers	6-4	255	Sr.
NT	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	300	Jr.
	97	Kevin Dixon	6-3	280	Sr.
	56	Shukree Barfield	6-4	290	Sr.
DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler	6-3	280	Sr.
	90	Terrence Moore	6-3	275	RFr.
DE	99	Barry Turner	6-3	265	Sr.
	95	Pierre Allen	6-5	265	So.
WLB	34	Cody Glenn	6-0	235	Sr.
	7	Latravis Washington	6-3	225	So.
MLB	52	Phillip Dillard	6-1	235	Jr.
	54	Colton Koehler	6-1	230	Jr.
BLB	53	Tyler Wortman	6-3	235	Sr.
	40	Blake Lawrence	6-2	225	So.
RC	5	Anthony West	6-0	200	So.
	21	Prince Amukamara	6-1	195	So.
LC	6	Armando Murillo	6-0	190	Sr.
	28	Eric Hagg	6-1	200	So.
SS	4	Larry Asante	6-1	210	Jr.
	2	Major Culbert	6-0	205	Jr.
FS	3	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	195	Jr.
	33	Matt O'Hanlon	5-11	195	Sr.

*Nebraska's 2-deeps are as of the beginning of fall camp and therefore do not include freshmen. No new two deeps had been released at press time.



THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



AUGUST 30, 2008
WMU BRONCOS MAY NOT BE THAT PUSHOVER PONY
THAT HUSKER FANS COULD BE EXPECTING FOR A
SEASON OPENER!

THIS WEEK'S PICKS



AARON BABCOCK, Editor

Western Michigan @ Nebraska
Missouri vs. Illinois
Wake Forest @ Baylor
Virginia Tech @ East Carolina
Colorado vs. Colorado State

NU 38-13
MU 35-28
WF 21-7
VT 24-17
CSU 24-21



MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor

Western Michigan @ Nebraska
Missouri vs. Illinois
Wake Forest @ Baylor
Virginia Tech @ East Carolina
Colorado vs. Colorado State

NU 42-17
MU 31-20
WF 28-10
VT 21-17
CU 35-31



CURT MCKEEVER, Lincoln Journal Star

Western Michigan @ Nebraska
Missouri vs. Illinois
Wake Forest @ Baylor
Virginia Tech @ East Carolina
Colorado vs. Colorado State

NU 27-16
MU 31-28
WF 20-14
VT 24-20
CU 23-31



TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent

Western Michigan @ Nebraska
Missouri vs. Illinois
Wake Forest @ Baylor
Virginia Tech @ East Carolina
Colorado vs. Colorado State

NU 38-23
MU 28-24
WF 41-20
VT 44-17
CU 17-13



MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network

Western Michigan @ Nebraska
Missouri vs. Illinois
Wake Forest @ Baylor
Virginia Tech @ East Carolina
Colorado vs. Colorado State

NU 38-17
MU 42-21
WF 31-17
VT 24-14
CU 34-28



ERIC HAGG
is learning on the fly





Wintertime in Nebraska can be rough.

That's especially true if you were born and raised in Arizona, and if you've never really spent a winter in the Midwest.

And it's certainly challenging if the sole reason you left a warm-weather climate in the first place was to play football. If there's ever any downtime for a college football player, it's usually when the dead of winter hits.

Nebraska sophomore safety Eric Hagg understands this. A native of Peoria, Ariz., Hagg had some free time last offseason, and his options for fun seemed limited.

So he pulled out his Plan B skateboard. He'd learned to skateboard long before he started catching footballs, thanks to an introduction from his older brother, Skyler.

"That's just what the kids did at my school," said Hagg, who graduated from Ironwood High School.

In Lincoln, Hagg and Husker teammate Anthony Blue, also a sophomore, often skateboarded together. They met a local guy

by Brian Rosenthal

— Hagg remembers his name as Bill — and the three would skateboard together on the basketball courts outside the dorm. No big jumps, just minor tricks.

But on this day, the outdoor conditions weren't conducive to skateboarding. The long hallway in the dorm would have to suffice. Hagg had practiced indoors several times before, after all.

He tried to do a kick flip. He failed this time. Landed smack on his wrist.

Hagg hasn't skateboarded since.

His injury wasn't serious. In fact, Hagg doesn't believe the Nebraska coaches ever knew about the incident. But it was a wake-up call, for certain.

"I just stopped after that," Hagg said. "I still have my board in the closet, though. I think I'm going to give it to my brother."

Skyler, though — a member of Turner Gill's football team at Buffalo — is battling knee problems. And Blue has been rehabilitating from ACL surgery, an injury he suffered in

winter conditioning.

It's understandable, then, that Hagg isn't taking his health for granted. Especially not now, when it appears he has a chance for significant playing time in 2008.

The 6-1, 200-pound Hagg is practicing in fall camp as a cornerback and nickel back. As a true freshman, he worked at safety but changed positions in the spring with a new coaching staff.

Like any young player making a position switch, Hagg is still adjusting to his role. He realizes the areas for needed improvement.

"At corner, I need to get quicker feet," Hagg said. "When you've got to break down with the receiver, my feet aren't quick enough right now. Then at nickel, it's just, you're like a faster linebacker, sort of."

"The hardest part is learning corner and nickel, and doing it both at the same time. It's two different things. If I'm at corner, I guard someone, and if I'm at nickel, I've got to guard someone else, and I have a different responsibility."

Among those responsibilities is

communicating. If you're a corner or safety, and you don't talk on the field, secondary coach Marvin Sanders will pull you, lecture you, and put you back in.

"He's not yelling at us. He just wants us to do it right," Hagg said. "Coaches are pushing us and pushing us. It's good. It's like a good push. They don't yell at us this year, and just scream and yell. They tell us what we're doing wrong, and then they fix it. Everything's just fast, and everything's moving fast, so it's good."

Hagg isn't the only Husker who's talked about a faster, more aggressive defense in fall camp. Linemen are reportedly getting off the ball faster. The secondary is playing faster.

Hagg said he feels faster. He doesn't know for certain that he is, but he feels it, and says he's more flexible. He attributes it all to offseason conditioning with new strength coach James Dobson.

"With Coach Dobson, his thing was totally different than Coach (Dave Kennedy)," Hagg said. "We did more quick stuff. We never went over 55 yards. We did speed training, and the lifting was explosion, not just heavy weight. It got heavy, but it was all about explosion, and how fast you could get up and stuff."

As for getting quicker feet, Hagg said it's something he's focusing on in drills.

"Some people just have those fast-twitch muscles more than other people," he said. "But it's more about focus and getting out of your break, and focusing on when we do our drills out there. When no one's out there, we have to backpedal and get out of our breaks, with no receivers, and Coach is just watching us."

Sanders, Hagg said, has done more than help players improve on the field.

A former Husker defensive back, Sanders is also trying to instill the importance of the Blackshirt tradition. Out-of-state players, like Hagg, don't always understand the meaning of a Blackshirt when they first arrive.

"I didn't hear the Blackshirts until I got here, to be honest," Hagg said. "I think Coach (Kevin) Cosgrove was talking about it in our first thing of meetings. And I remember the Blackshirts had to go take a picture. They didn't really talk about it in the meetings or nothing."

Hagg only knew that a Blackshirt – a longtime symbol of starting

status on Nebraska's defense – meant you were really good.

After hearing stories from Sanders, he knows it's more than just being good.

Sanders told of how when he played in the 1980s, he first wore a gold shirt in practice, meaning he was on the lower unit. One day in practice, the gold shirts didn't perform so well.

"(The Blackshirts) had to go hard-core every time, and they were sprinting and stuff, and then the gold shirts went in there, and that was Coach's team," Hagg said relaying Sanders' story.

"They took a few plays off, and a guy scored, and a guy scored again, or something like that, and then the Blackshirts came in and were like, 'You know, we'll do this.' And they ran every single rep for the rest of practice.

"And they were in like the second period. They did every single rep for the rest of practice, and they went back in the locker room, and the starters, the Blackshirts, didn't say nothing to anybody. They were just dead-beat tired. Everyone was quiet in the locker room.

"It hit us at home when he told that story to us. I couldn't imagine going every single rep and just finishing the whole practice out like that."

It's stories like that, Hagg said, that have helped bond players. At least, Hagg feels more connected this year. Perhaps that's because he's older, he said.

"When you're a freshman," he said, "you feel like an outcast."

It didn't help, probably, that Hagg was a bit homesick. When he was in Arizona, living with his father and brother, he couldn't wait to leave home. Then he couldn't wait to get back. Returning to Lincoln, he admits, was hard.

Without his skateboard, Hagg found other ways to spend his free time in the offseason. He visited St. Elizabeth's hospital with other Husker players, where he saw premature babies that fit snugly in Bo Pelini's hand.

ERIC HAGG

"And my pinkie was bigger than (the baby's) arm," Hagg said.

He also visited a local day care, where he and other players talked about nutrition. The kids wanted to talk football, though.

So, too, did the residents at Eastmont Towers, a retirement home in Lincoln. Hagg visited there, too, with Pelini.

"The one guy, he just wanted to know, 'Are you guys going to be good again.' That was probably the hardest question I was asked," Hagg said. "I want to say we're going to be good and we're going to be great, but you really don't know." **N**



"The hardest part is learning corner and nickel, and doing it both at the same time. It's two different things. If I'm at corner, I guard someone, and if I'm at nickel, I've got to guard someone else, and I have a different responsibility."



Ben Martin

6-4, 275, Sophomore, Defensive Tackle, Lincoln, Neb.

Like father, like son. That's why Ben Martin's major is biological sciences.

Martin plans to be a doctor someday. His father, Michael, is a family physician, and being a doctor is "something that has always interested me," the Cornhusker sophomore said.

A pre-med curriculum "definitely makes it so you have to manage your time," he said. "There's a lot on your plate. Classes are pretty tough. But you find time, one way or the other."

Obviously, he has, making the Big 12 Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll in the spring.

Also in the spring, he prepared himself to compete for playing time at defensive tackle in his second season, after seeing limited action in seven games last season following a redshirt.

Martin was recruited as a defensive end and never imagined he would be moved inside. "I thought the transition was going to be a lot different than it was," he said. "In general, the two positions are about the same. It was a pretty easy transition compared to what I thought it would be, I guess."

Hi: If you could have only three things on your iPod, what would they be?

MARTIN: I'd probably put my favorite band, Under Oath, on there, probably a funny movie and I don't know what else. Funny movie, I don't know, Dumb and Dumber is one of my favorites, I guess.



Hi: What's the best movie you've seen recently?

MARTIN: The Batman movie (The Dark Knight) was pretty good. I was there the first week, not the first night. It was still sold out, though. It was one of the better ones I've seen in a while.

Hi: What vegetable will you absolutely not eat?

MARTIN: Tomatoes, I don't like tomatoes at all.



Hi: What's the most recent fiction book you've read?

MARTIN: Harry Potter, the last one. I heard they were good.

Hi: What was the first Nebraska football game you attended?

MARTIN: It was a long time ago. I remember going with my dad. I was in elementary school. I can't remember exactly which team we played. I just remember I loved it. We sat in the South Stadium. I've been to a lot of them.



Hi: Who's the funniest guy on the team?

MARTIN: Lydon Murtha's pretty funny. He's got a lot of jokes. It's how he acts and what he says.

Hi: If you could excel in any sport except football at the collegiate level, what sport would it be?

MARTIN: Probably basketball, I used to play in high school. I always enjoyed basketball. It's a pretty fun sport. I played up until my junior year, then I concentrated on football.

Hi: Tom Brady or Peyton Manning?

MARTIN: Tom Brady, I think Peyton Manning has gotten too much media attention. He's a pretty boy.

Hi: Sky diving, bungee jumping or rock climbing?

MARTIN: Probably sky diving, it would be a pretty big rush, I guess.

Hi: What's the best thing served at the training table?

MARTIN: They always have pretty good steaks. They'll ask you how you want it (cooked). I usually get it medium.

Shot Kleen

Is the man behind the big screens

It's only natural to take for granted that those big video screens inside Memorial Stadium are going to fire up and run properly each and every game-day Saturday.

Shot Kleen makes sure of it.

Kleen serves as director of technology for the Husker athletic department. A former engineer and production specialist at KOLN/KGIN-TV (1971-93), he began work at NU in 1994.

"They're very reliable, but they are sensitive to heat and cold," Kleen said of the big screens. "They'll go tooling along all season long, and then something will change. They're mechanical and electrical, so there's always a chance that something's going to fail.

"We kind of take the creed of the Boy Scouts -- if you're prepared and you do all

you can to make sure things are going to work, it usually works for the better."

His favorite memory occurred in September of 2004. Nebraska was playing Southern Mississippi. This was before the installation of new big screens in 2005. The old screens were failing regularly at the time.

"The screen in the southeast corner had an issue," Kleen recalled. "So I had to go up there to fix it. You had to go through the student section, and that was quite an experience . . . The students suggested they pass me hand over hand like they do with the kids. I opted to walk up there."

He learned to tinker with motors and electronics long before college. He was about 5 years old when he began helping his father, Earl Kleen, a plumber and electrician



in Ruskin, Neb. Shot was always around machinery and electric motors. He was curious how things worked. And when they broke, he was curious how to fix them.

Kleen currently oversees the technical aspects of HuskerVision, including operation of the gigantic Mitsubishi replay screen in North Stadium. He's also in charge of HuskerVision's budget, personnel and day-to-day operations.

Kleen holds an interesting distinction.

"I'm the only person in the world who's worked on the Bob Devaney television show, the Tom Osborne show, the Frank Solich show, the Bill Callahan show and the Bo Pelini show," he said.

Oh, the stories Shot could tell.

Catching up with BY MIKE BABCOCK

Ken Kaelin

Fullback still passionate for his Huskers

When players dumped Gatorade on coach Frank Solich and lifted him up following Nebraska's 31-22 victory at Colorado in the final regular-season game in 2003, "I had tears in my eyes," Ken Kaelin said. "I thought, 'This is it. The heat's going to be taken off Frank now.'"

Solich was fired the next day. "How it was handled just killed me," said Kaelin.

Solich, his position coach, "will always be one of the greatest men of my life," Kaelin said.

Coach Tom Osborne was another by whom he was greatly influenced.

Kaelin was a walk-on from tiny Westerville, Neb. He played eight-man football at Ansley High School and might have been overwhelmed by what

he encountered at Nebraska. But from the beginning, when Osborne met with incoming freshmen for the first time, his concerns were alleviated.

"I learned about what true Christian faith was through Tom Osborne. I learned what real intensity is. Those words that people throw around, character and intensity, they don't really know what the words mean," he said. Osborne knew, however, and defined

KEN KAELIN

LETTERS: 1984-86

POSITION: Fullback

CURRENT: Owner of two HobbyTown franchises in the Omaha area for 18 years

WIFE: Jamie

CHILDREN: Kensy (18), Kameron (15)

them through his actions.

"It was off the charts," Kaelin said.



Volleyball

BY BOB HAMAR

Huskers must dream big to reach Omaha

You have to dream big if you're a Nebraska volleyball player.

Four All-Americans are gone from last year's 30-2 team that lost in the regional finals to the University of California. Two of those players – Christina Houghtelling in 2005 and Sarah Pavan in 2006 – were named national player of the year by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Throw in All-America middle blocker Tracy Stalls and you have a senior class that will be hard to replace.

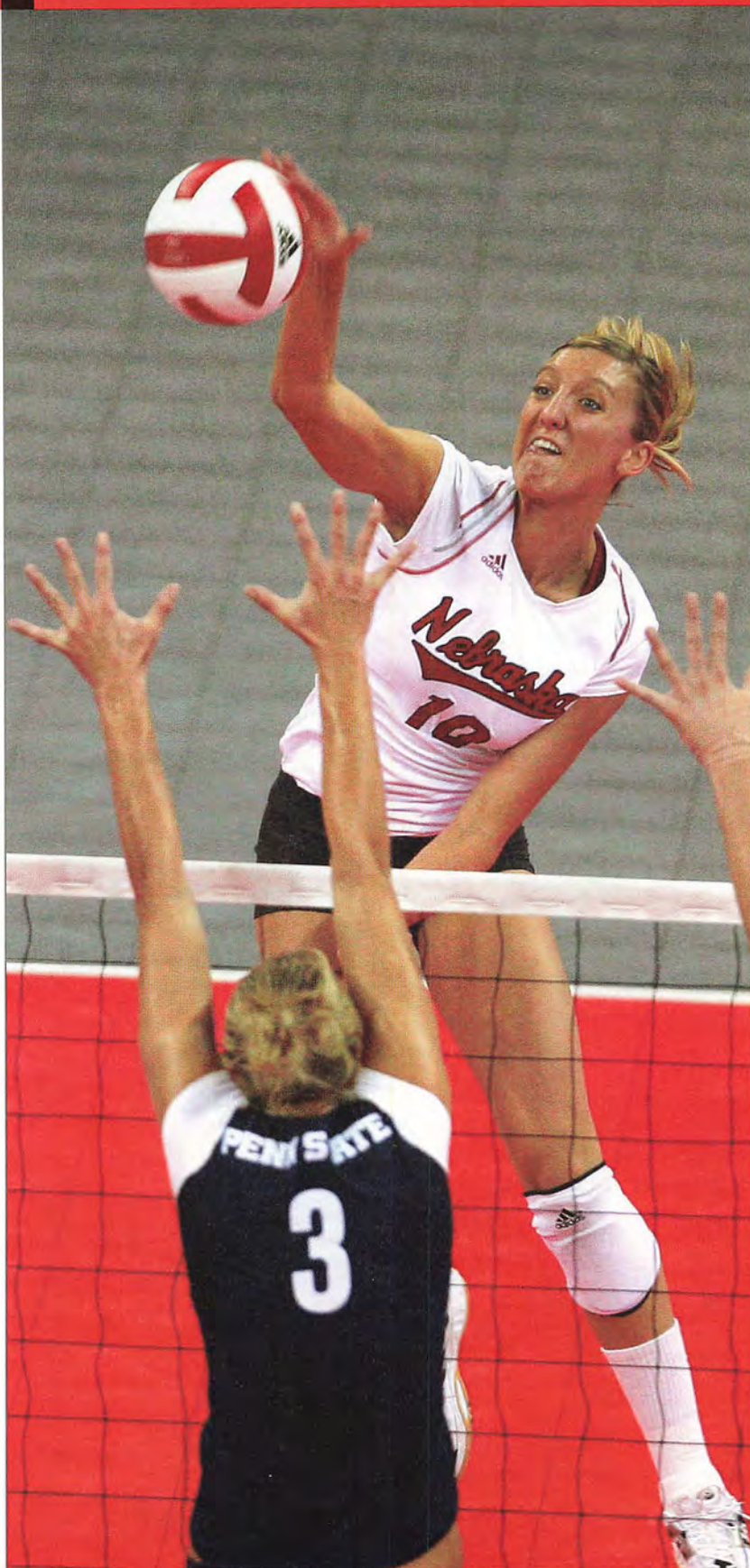
But wait. There's more.

Rachel Holloway, a second team All-America setter as a sophomore, decided to leave the program early this year. That means the Huskers lost four All-Americans and return just one in senior Jordan Larson.

But that doesn't change the dreams. The Huskers are still looking to end the season at the Final Four at the Qwest Center in Omaha.

That's where the 2006 team won coach John Cook's second national title and the third overall for the program.

"Every decision we make from here on out will be how to get this team to Omaha," Cook said. "We already know how magical it is if we can get there. We have a tough journey to get there. Every decision we make will be geared toward playing our best volleyball in the NCAA Tournament, working for an opportunity to go to Omaha."



"We're going to talk about dreaming big, about getting there every day."

The 2006 team nearly wilted in its run to the Final Four and a national championship. The Huskers that year had to overcome a 3-0 deficit to Minnesota in a regional final, then defeated UCLA and Stanford, both by identical 3-1 scores, to win the national title.

The whole focus in 2006 was getting to Omaha, just as it is this season. However, that year Husker fans expected the team to win big. This year is different.

"There's less pressure because two years ago it was the first time it was in Omaha," Cook said. "Now everybody has been through that. I don't feel it. I haven't sensed it around the state. I think people will be pulling like crazy to get us there and doing everything they can which is fun. But I don't feel the pressure I felt before."

There are also a lot of college volleyball observers from around the country who think the Huskers won't be very good this season. Cook hears that all the time.

"I get e-mails. It's just a common theme," Cook said. "That's part of the challenge. That's what I love about our coaching staff. Lizzy (Stemke) and Erik (Sullivan) are very competitive. They're going to feed off that as well. I just hope that permeates to our players."

Rachel Schwartz, a senior who will play either as a libero or back-row specialist, said she is excited about the upcoming season because people don't know what to expect from the Huskers.

"That's exciting," Schwartz said. "We have a chance to go out there and be great and we have a chance to do a lot of things that some people may not think we can do. That's exciting to me."

Schwartz (Lincoln East), Larson (Logan View) and Amanda Gates (Columbus) make up the all-Nebraska senior class. Larson has started since she first stepped on the court back in 2005. Schwartz started much of the 2007 season at libero before moving to defensive specialist with then-freshman Kayla Banwarth taking over at libero.

Gates saw action at both middle blocker positions last year behind Stalls and Kori Cooper.

Cooper was one of the team's most improved players last year as a sophomore. Outside hitter Tara Mueller saw some action

2008 VOLLEYBALL ROSTER					
No.	Name	Po.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown
1	Anderson, Sydney	S	6-0	So.	Salt Lake City, Utah (Alta)
2	Banwarth, Kayla	L	5-10	So.	Dubuque, Iowa (Wahlert Catholic)
3	Root, Brigitte	S	5-11	Fr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)
4	Licht, Lindsey	RS	6-5	So.	Aurora, Colo. (Grandview)
5	Schwartz, Rachel	L	5-9	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (East)
6	Wilberger, Jordan	MB	6-1	RFr.	Scottsbluff, Neb. (Scottsbluff)
8	Delano, Brooke	MB	6-4	RFr.	Bellevue, Neb. (West)
10	Larson, Jordan	OH	6-2	Sr.	Hooper, Neb. (Logan View)
11	Yanz, Jessica	S	6-0	Jr.	Bolingbrook, Ill., (Penn State) (Naperville Central)
14	James, Kaitlynn	OH	5-11	Fr.	Louisville, Ky. (Assumption)
15	Cooper, Kori	MB	6-2	Jr.	Amarillo, Texas
16	McNeal, Allison	MB	6-3	Fr.	Schulenburg, Texas (Schulenburg)
17	Gates, Amanda	MB	6-2	Sr.	Columbus, Neb.
19	Mueller, Tara	OH	6-0	So.	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Desert Mountain)

a year ago as a freshman as did sophomore right side hitter Lindsey Licht.

That's pretty much all the experience returning for the Huskers this season. They do have Sydney Anderson who led Utah to the NCAA Tournament as a freshman in 2006 before leaving the program.

With former Penn State setter Jessica Yanz ineligible to play this year, Anderson is the only scholarship setter on the team. Brigitte Root, a freshman from Grand Island, is a walk-on who will serve as her backup.

Anderson and Root didn't arrive in Lincoln until this summer. Yanz was there, but couldn't participate in any spring exhibition matches.

Middle blocker Brooke Delano of Bellevue West redshirted last year in their first season with the program.

The freshman class consists of Root, outside hitter Kaitlynn James (Louisville, Ken.), middle blocker Allison McNeal (Schulenburg, Texas).

"We're still working hard toward building that team chemistry," Cook said. "We do have five new players. Fortunately with the bridge program they were allowed to get here for a smoother transition.

"The biggest thing was not having a setter this spring. That was the biggest unknown and the biggest anxiety for me."

The Huskers will learn a lot about themselves the first weekend of the season at the Runza/AVCA Showcase when they play Pac 10 powers Stanford and Southern Cal. Both teams were in the Final Four a year ago.

"There's a big risk in the schedule we have," Cook said. "But to me, it's really a situation where we're going to gain a

2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE	
Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, 7 p.m.
Aug. 31	*USC, 3 p.m.
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, 4 p.m.
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, TBA
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, TBA
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, 7 p.m.
Sept. 13	Championship, TBA
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20	Texas, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24	Kansas, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Oct. 4	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Oct. 5	*Creighton, 5 p.m.
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Missouri, 1 p.m.
Oct. 15	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Nov. 1	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Kansas State, TBA
Nov. 12	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Kansas, TBA
Nov. 19	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha

lot from those matches. Even if we don't win those matches, it would be better than playing somebody that we just had better talent than them.

"So let's find out where we're at so we know what we have to do the rest of the season to get to Omaha. To me, it's a great opportunity." **N**

Men's Basketball

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Huskers sport new look after busy offseason

The summer began with the departure of an assistant coach and the stunning loss of a prized recruit.

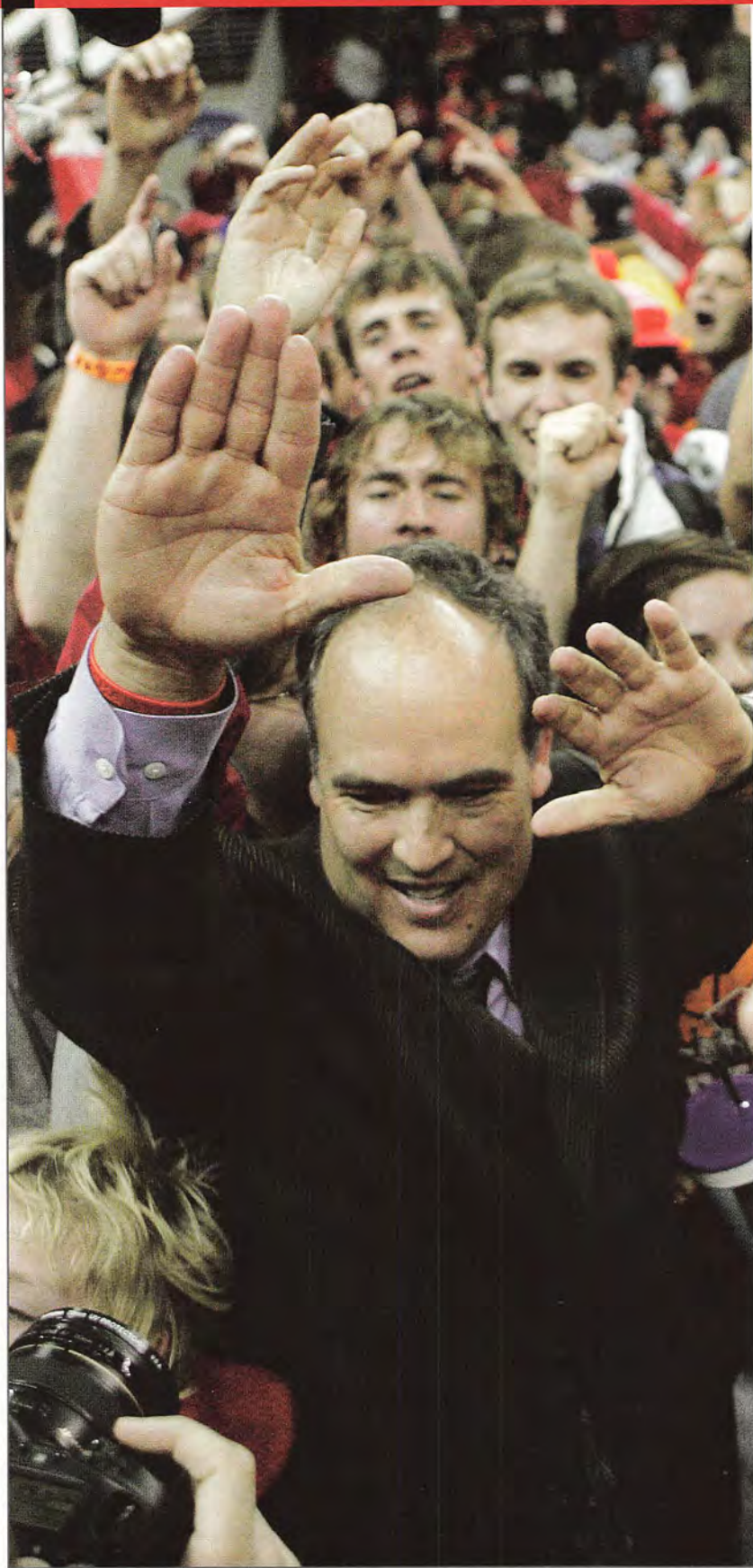
That was just the beginning of what's been an active offseason for the Nebraska men's basketball team.

Other than 2006 – when Barry Collier resigned as head coach and Doc Sadler replaced him in August – it'd be hard to find a summer when Husker basketball was making so many headlines.

Even talk of a possible new downtown arena in Lincoln has at least kept Sadler's team in the mix of coffee shop chatter.

It wasn't a happy conversation topic, though, when recruit Roburt Sallie was suddenly declared ineligible in May. The California junior college standout guard, who first signed under Collier, then again last November, had violated a Big 12 Conference rule because he enrolled in classes at Nebraska briefly in August of 2006, when he wasn't fully academically qualified. His appeal was denied, and he eventually signed with Memphis, last year's NCAA runner-up.

That happened after assistant coach Tony Benford, who came to Nebraska with Sadler, accepted an assistant coaching job with Marquette. Sadler replaced him with San Diego assistant coach Walter Roese (pronounced row-EESE).



The 41-year-old Roese is a native of Novo Hamburgo in southern Brazil, and is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese. His international recruiting connections immediately paid dividends when Roese landed Angola native Vander Joaquim, a 6-9, 220-pound forward who'd originally committed to San Diego.

Joaquim, who will be a senior at Christian High School in El Cajon, Calif., became the first member of Sadler's 2009-10 recruiting class. He's already ranked No. 94 on ESPN's Top 100 list of 2009-10 recruits. The Web site refers to Joaquim as "arguably the best-kept secret on the West Coast."

As a junior last season, Joaquim averaged 21.2 points and 16.7 rebounds per game, with game highs of 32 points and 27 rebounds. He shot 57 percent from the field and 71 percent from the free-throw line.

The only bigger offseason roster addition was that of Eshaunte Jones – bigger simply because Jones is available to play this year, somewhat offsetting the loss of Sallie.

Jones, a 6-4, 190-pound combo guard from Fort Wayne, Ind., attended Hargrave Military Academy last year but played only half the season at the Virginia prep school. He said a severe ankle injury sidelined him the second half of the season.

Jones said he probably averaged 19 points through the estimated 14 games he said he played at Hargrave.

As a high school senior at Fort Wayne

North Side, Jones was the state of Indiana's third-leading scorer, averaging 28 points per game. He shot nearly 42 percent from the field.

Jones, who'd had offers out of high school from Tennessee, West Virginia, Cincinnati, Georgetown, Missouri and Memphis, committed to Indiana in the fall of 2006 but instead went to Hargrave.

Jones then signed to play with Oregon State, but was granted a release from his letter of intent after a coaching change at the school. Nebraska and Kentucky then became the front-runners to land Jones.

Nebraska, at one time one player over the NCAA 13-player scholarship limit for the coming season, had scholarships open with the loss of Sallie, the transfers of Jay-R Strowbridge and Shang Ping, and the departure of senior Aleks Maric.

Jones and incoming freshman Christopher Niemann – a 6-10 center who's awaiting clearance by the NCAA – fill two scholarships. The third will likely go to senior walk-on Paul Velander.

Nebraska also secured a second oral commitment for 2009-10 from Brandon Ubel, a 6-9, 220-pound power forward from Overland Park, Kan.

Ubel, who will be a senior at Blue Valley West High School, also had scholarship offers from Drake, Illinois State and Utah State, and said Marquette and Stanford were showing serious interest. He averaged 20 points and eight rebounds this summer for his AAU team.



The Cornhuskers will be without assistant coach Tony Benford after he accepted an assistant coaching job with Marquette this offseason.

MARIC TO PLAY IN SPAIN

Former Cornhusker Aleks Maric reportedly has signed a two-year contract with CB Granada, a professional basketball team in Spain. Maric, who wasn't selected in the NBA draft, averaged 15.7 points, 10.2 rebounds and 29.2 minutes per game for Nebraska last season.

According to the *Omaha World-Herald*, nine former Cornhuskers played professional basketball for European teams last season: Venson Hamilton, Real Madrid (Spain); Cookie Belcher, Bnei Hasharon (Israel); Kimani Ffriend, Paris Levallois (France); Steffon Bradford, Nanterre (France); Andrew Drevo, Braunschweig (Germany); John Turek, Optima Gent (Belgium); Jason Dourisseau, Ludwigsburg (Germany); Wes Wilkinson, Charlerois (Belgium); Charles Richardson, Rotterdam (the Netherlands).

MEN'S BASKETBALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Sat. Jan. 10	Missouri at Nebraska [ESPN2]
Wed., Jan. 14	Nebraska at Iowa State
Sat., Jan. 17	Kansas State at Nebraska [Big 12]
Tue., Jan. 20	Nebraska at Oklahoma [ESPN]
Sat., Jan. 24	Oklahoma State at Nebraska [Big 12]
Wed., Jan. 28	Kansas at Nebraska [ESPN2]
Sat., Jan. 31	Nebraska at Texas Tech [Big 12]
Wed., Feb. 4	Nebraska at Colorado
Sat., Feb. 7	Texas at Nebraska [ESPN]
Sat., Feb. 14	Nebraska at Missouri [Big 12]
Wed., Feb. 18	Colorado at Nebraska [ESPN]
Sat., Feb. 21	Nebraska at Kansas [Big 12]
Tue., Feb. 24	Texas A&M at Nebraska [ESPN2]
Sat., Feb. 28	Nebraska at Kansas State [Big 12]
Wed., March 4	Iowa State at Nebraska
Sat., March 7	Nebraska at Baylor [Big 12]

[Big 12] Big 12 Network telecast (formerly known as ESPN Plus)



CORNHUSKERS, 1904 – W.C. “Bummy” Booth’s team in 1904 finished with a 7-3 record. This photograph of the team was taken at the rock-strewn field on which the Cornhuskers first played, south of where Memorial Stadium is located now. The field ran east and west and was replaced by Nebraska Field, built through the efforts of Earl O. Eager, the athletics business manager then but a member of this team. He’s the second from the left in the front row. Other players of note: Maurice Benedict, captain (fifth from left back row); Charlie Borg, captain in 1905 (fourth from right second row, holding ball); John Weller, captain in 1907 (third from right second row); Robert Taylor (second from left second row) and Bill Johnson (third from right front row), Nebraska’s second and third African-American letterwinners. The first African-American to earn a letter was George Flippin (1892-94). Booth is pictured, arms folded, third from the right in the back row. The photograph was from a collection donated to the university by the Borg family.

BOB DEVANEY’S FIRST SEASON

Game 1, Sept. 22, 1962 at Memorial Stadium

Nebraska 53, South Dakota 0

South Dakota	0	0	0	0	–	0
Nebraska	6	13	20	14	–	53

(N) Larry Tomlinson 20 pass John Faiman (kick blocked)
 (N) Dennis Claridge 16 run (kick failed)
 (N) Joe McNulty 2 run (Jim Baffico kick)
 (N) Dave Theisen 27 interception return (kick failed)
 (N) Kent McCloughan 20 run (Baffico kick)
 (N) John Vujevich 14 pass Faiman (Baffico kick)
 (N) Doug Tucker 1 run (Faiman kick)
 (N) Noel Martin 1 run (Faiman kick)

Attendance: 26,953



Even though a victory against South Dakota – which opened its season the previous week with a loss to Colorado State – was expected, the manner in which victory was achieved was not. **BOB DEVANEY**’s debut as Cornhusker coach featured 455 yards of offense, including 313 rushing. The passing game, something lacking under Devaney’s predecessor **BILL JENNINGS**, got Nebraska started, however. Years later, Devaney would joke that the

opening play, an incomplete pass, drew a standing ovation. In any case, the Cornhuskers completed 11-of-17 passes for 142 yards and two touchdowns, including the first of the Devaney era late in the first quarter.

DEVANEY: “Until South Dakota tired we didn’t do anything tremendous. Our pass receivers were open in the first half, and I think we could have passed quite well, but our running game bogged down. We ran a little better in the second half – probably a combination of us doing better and them tiring.”

DID YOU KNOW? The Cornhuskers moved from the west sideline to the east sideline for Devaney’s debut. The No. 1 song on the Billboard charts was “Sherry” by the Four Seasons.

TOM OSBORNE’S FIRST SEASON

Game 1, Sept. 9, 1973 at Memorial Stadium

Nebraska 40, UCLA 13

UCLA	6	7	0	0	–	13
Nebraska	14	6	6	14	–	40

(N) Steve Runty 1 run (Rich Sanger kick)
 (N) Randy Borg 77 punt return (Sanger kick)
 (UCLA) Kermit Johnson 12 run (kick failed)
 (N) Frosty Anderson 10 pass Runty (kick blocked)
 (UCLA) Mark Harmon 3 run (Efren Herrera kick)
 (N) Tony Davis 1 run (kick blocked)
 (N) Davis 43 run (Sanger kick)
 (N) Jeff Moran 2 run (Sanger kick)

Attendance: 74,966



With No. 1 quarterback **DAVE HUMM** sidelined by a leg injury, back-up **STEVE RUNTY** directed the victory in Tom Osborne’s first game as head coach. UCLA coach Pepper Rodgers, who had prepared for Humm’s drop-back passing, described Runty as the best second-team quarterback he had ever seen. Sophomore I-back **TONY DAVIS**, making his varsity debut, carried 24 times for 147 yards and two touchdowns. The Cornhuskers rolled up 409 yards of offense, while the Blackshirt defense held UCLA’s Wishbone offense in check, prompting Bruins fullback James McAlister to call Cornhusker defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin a “genius” afterward.

OSBORNE: “The entire team showed a tremendously calm determination. Though this was my first game as a head coach, I’ve been associated with a lot of great Nebraska teams in the past, and I can’t recall ever having a group of kids more ready to play.”

DID YOU KNOW? Kickoff for the game was 3:50 p.m. to accommodate national television. The Cornhuskers entered the stadium from the south end for the first time, after a new locker room replaced the one in Schulte Fieldhouse. “American Graffiti” was among the first-run movies showing in Lincoln.

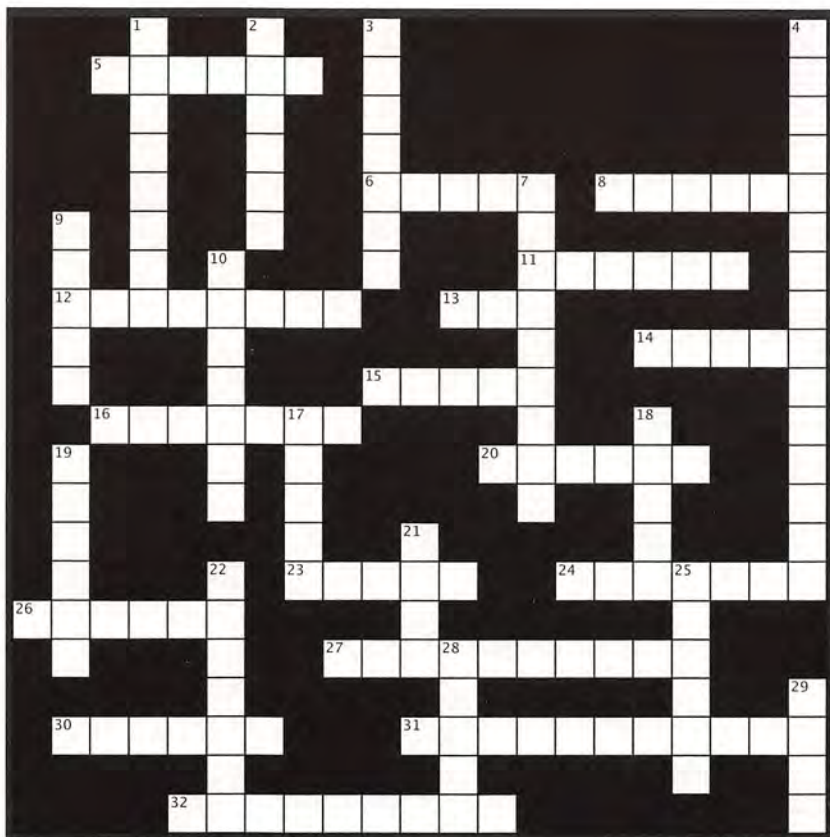
ACROSS

5. Nov. 8 opponent
6. Western Michigan head coach
8. Defensive line coach
11. Wears No. 99
12. Second-leading rusher in 2007
13. Western Michigan's conference
14. Ex-Husker on Western Michigan staff
15. Former athletic director
16. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
20. Kicked 8 field goals in 2007
23. Wore retired No. 60
24. Kickoff specialist
26. Wears No. 98
27. Rickey Thenarse's home state
30. Quarterbacks coach
31. Mike Ekeler's alma mater
32. Western Michigan campus location

DOWN

1. Tom Osborne's alma mater
2. Oct. 25 opponent
3. Western Michigan nickname
4. 2009 non-conference opponent
7. Wears No. 97
9. Top returning receiver
10. 1994 Outland Trophy winner
17. Defensive tackle dismissed from team
18. 2004 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee
19. Assistant athletic director for football
21. Bo's older brother
22. Jaivorio Burkes' home state
25. Top returning tackler Across
28. 2010 non-conference opponent
29. Running backs coach

Answers will appear in Sept. 2 issue



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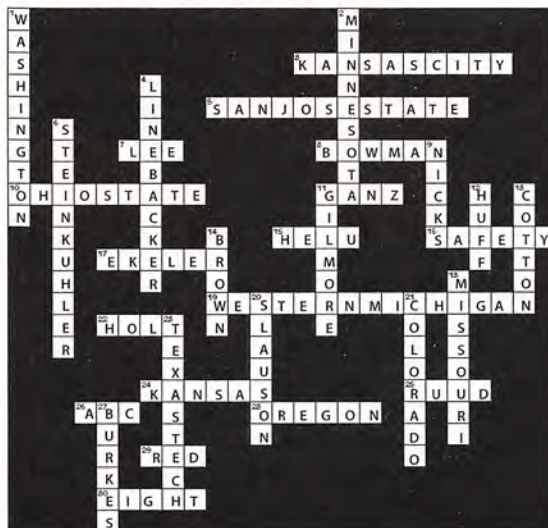
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JULY/AUGUST CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Glenn, Lucky represent past, present

TIMING WAS EVERYTHING, like knowing when to cut off a block. And the one-word answer, followed by silence, elicited surprise the way a would-be tackler is frozen by a good fake.

"No," Marlon Lucky said responding to a reporter's question.

The answer registered. And everyone, including Lucky, laughed.

The question was whether Lucky missed having Cody Glenn with the I-backs. Until last spring, of course, Glenn was a running back. He's a linebacker now.

"Cody's doing good on defense," said Lucky. "I mean, he competes."

Lucky and Glenn represent two assumptions related to Bo Pelini's first season as Nebraska's head coach – and yes, his record is 1-0, the victory as interim head coach for the 2003 Alamo Bowl game counts. In any case, the first assumption is that the offense will be sufficiently strong based on those returning and what the offense did last season. The second is that the defense will be much improved.

Lucky is probably the most prominent of those returning on offense. He's the leading returning rusher in the Big 12, and the only one to run for 1,000 or more yards a year ago. He's also the school record holder for pass receptions in a season, with 75 catches during his junior year.

Even though he'll have to share time with sophomores Roy Helu, Jr. and Quentin Castille, he's the back on whom the Cornhuskers likely will count as they once again emphasize the run.

An aside here, despite the "pound the rock" theme of two seasons ago, the

running game was effectively tabled during Bill Callahan's tenure as coach. Nebraska's best rushing average over the last four years wasn't even close to the worst in the 34 seasons that preceded his arrival.

The Cornhuskers ranked ninth in the nation in total offense last season and seventh in passing, averaging a school record (far and away) 323.8 yards per game. But much of that proved to be empty yardage as measured by their 5-7 record. The running game needs to be resurrected.

Glenn isn't the most prominent of those returning on defense, obviously, because he played offense, though sparingly – which is why he might have transferred if not for the coaching changes. But he's drawn as much attention as any defensive player since announcing he wanted to try linebacker.

Asked in the spring soon after the move if it was permanent, Pelini said, philosophically, nothing's permanent. In this case, however, it has been. And by all accounts, it's been successful.

We won't know until the games begin, however. "He's flying all over the field. He's like the only one I see race past the film every time I watch," Lucky said of his friend.

Glenn needs to be omni-present. All of the defenders do, swarming to the ball, the first wrapping up, the others trying for takeaways. That's been an emphasis since the start of spring practice.

Although Pelini dismisses the past, staying in the present, Lucky and Glenn represent it. Recruiting rankings were important to Callahan, and Lucky and

Glenn were members of his most publicized class. Lucky brought a five-star ranking, one of two in 2005, the other being Zack Bowman.

In 2006, the "pound the rock" season, Lucky and Glenn joined Brandon Jackson and Kenny Wilson in an I-back committee that averaged 170.5 rushing yards per game. Jackson, who finished at the head of the committee, left after that season for the NFL. Wilson suffered a broken leg, which has never completely healed, so his playing career is finished. And Glenn has moved to linebacker.

Lucky couldn't have done that, according to Glenn. "He would have never made it. He's too pretty to play linebacker. You've got to be ugly, grimy, nasty to play linebacker," Glenn said.

He was joking, in response to a reporter's question, too. Lucky never had to consider playing defense, much less linebacker. He has developed just fine as a running back, despite the fact that he has had to carry the five-star rating from high school along with the ball.

Lucky looked as good as he has ever looked during fall camp, said Glenn. "Definitely, most definitely, with the experience, he's great. You can see it. He's getting better at (pass) protection, plus we all know he can run. It's just the smaller things that I can see he's supposed to be doing because I played the position, doing the chip blocks going out on routes, his pass routes, things like that."

Those things are all about timing, like the one-word answer to the question about Glenn.

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